

Cost of Disability – an issue of equality

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Today

- Focus on people with an intellectual disability
- Overview of living arrangements, education and employment
- Poverty and income inequality
- Cost of disability – what it means and what might be done
- Discussion

Inclusion Ireland

- Founded in 1961 by parents and family members of children with an intellectual disability
- Voluntary, membership organisation
- Information, support, capacity building and advocacy
- We use the framework of the CRPD to monitor legislation and policy and to inform our submissions and proposals to government

People with an intellectual disability

- 57,709 people with an intellectual disability (Census 2011)
- Eight out of ten people with an ID have another disability
- 27,000 people with an ID registered as receiving or requiring a specialist service (i.e. residential, respite, day)

Living arrangements

- About 7,000 adults with an ID – a majority male - over the age of 25 years are living with family members
- About 5,000 persons with an ID are living alone in private households
- Around 13,000 people with an ID living with relatives or with others who are not family members
- Around 8,300 people with an intellectual disability live in residential services. Of this, 3,500 in congregated settings

Source, Dr Pauline Conroy, Fact and Doubts, March 2013, Inclusion Ireland

Education

Highest Level of Education Completed (Census 2011)		
	Nos.	
No formal education	8,896	28%
Primary	12,374	39%
Secondary	7,785	24.5%
Technical/vocational	1,082	3.40%
Bachelor degree/professional qualification or both	680	2.14%
Advanced certificate/completed apprenticeship	412	1.30%
Higher certificate	281	0.88%
Postgraduate diploma or degree	198	0.62%
Doctorate (Ph.D)	44	0.13%
Total	31,752	

No. of people with an ID at work (CSO 2011)

Working Age	No. of people	No. at work
20 - 24 years	4,149	603
25 - 34 years	6,711	1,501
35 - 44 years	6,822	1,375
45 - 54 years	6,841	1,119
55 - 64 years	5,737	621
Total	30,260	5,219

No. of people with ID in employment (HRB 2012)

Number of people on database (aged 18+)	18,092
Number in supported employment	832
Number in open employment	156
% in open employment	0.8%

Employment

- Number of people with an ID at work extremely low
- Very few in open employment
- Over 2,000 engaged in sheltered work
- Mainly in commercial workshops
- No employment rights or minimum wage
- Request by ICTU in 2008 to Equality Authority to investigate

Poverty and Income Inequality

- People with disability reliant on social transfers
- Cuts to income supports and disability payments
- Significant cuts to services and supports (e.g. speech and language therapy)
- Official statistics understate poverty rates of people with a disability
- Unemployed people with disability experience high levels of deprivation (48%)

Summary

- Disability services provided in group (segregated) settings
- Low level of educational attainment
- Excluded from employment
- Forced to rely on social welfare payments
- High risk of poverty and deprivation rates

Cost of Disability

- The amount it costs a person/family with a disability to achieve the same standard of living as a person/family without a disability.
- Costs associated can be significant – essential goods and services
- Direct costs - additional daily expenditure (e.g. medical costs, food, aids, heating, appliances, transport)
- Indirect costs – on the accumulation of education, skills, and other human capital
- Issue has been on the political agenda for decades

Cost of Disability

Cost of disability depends on how much a person's income is affected by their disability AND by what services and supports that person is receiving

Higher Costs

- Aids and appliances
- Paying for services
- Food and dietary requirements
- Clothing and footwear
- Heating
- Transport
- Insurance

Reports and recommendations

- 1965: A cost of disability payment recommended by the Commission of Inquiry on Mental Handicap
- 1973: Domiciliary Care Allowance introduced as a non-means-tested payment to meet the extra costs of caring for a child with substantial needs
- 1996: Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities recommended a variable, non-taxable cost of disability payment

More reports and recommendations

- 2002: Government working group to examine the feasibility of a cost of disability payment.
- 2004: National Disability Authority recommends a cost of disability payment
- 2006: A commitment in *Towards 2016* to examine issues around a cost of disability payment

Northern Ireland

- Disability Living Allowance introduced in 1992, as a tax free, non means tested, non contributory benefit
- Cash contribution towards the extra costs for care and mobility needs arising as a result of disability
- To be replaced by Personal Independence Payment for those of working age

Recent estimates of the cost of disability (Ireland)

- Cullinan uses the Standard of Living Approach using official data to estimate the spending needs of disabled households
- Estimates the direct costs to be 35.4% of disposable income, or €207 per week for the average household.
- Suggests policy in Ireland does not go far enough in addressing impact of direct costs of disability
- Costs of disability are higher for people with significant disability

Addressing the economic cost of disability

- Examine tax and social welfare system
- Reduce the number of non-means-tested payments
- Incentivise people with a disability to get a job
- Introduce a cost of disability payment
- Individualised social care budgets- greater control for people
- Cost of disability commission – listen to people

Further Information

- Cullinan et al. (2014) *The Economics of Disability: Insights from Irish Research*. UK: Manchester University Press
- “Taking the hit and being clobbered” - www.mamanpoulet.com
- Inclusion Ireland Cost of Disability Conference videos;
- Pauline Conroy’s facts and doubts blog; and
- Various policy submissions can be accessed on www.inclusionireland.ie

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