

Disability and Accessibility: Canadian Ideals & Attitudes

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About Angus Reid Institute:

www.angusreid.org

- Not-partisan
- Not-for-profit
- Independent research
- No commercial or advocacy work

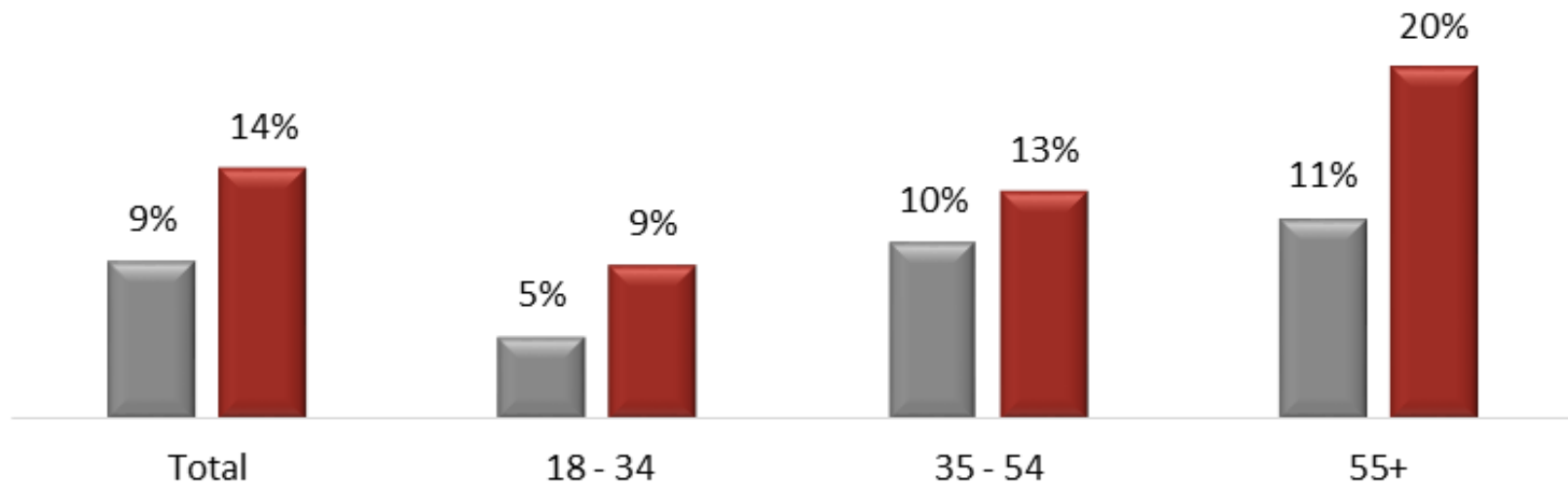


Survey Methods

- Online
- Randomized sample of 1527 people
- Across Canada, English and French
- Balanced to census data
- Conducted October 20-25, 2015

Disability Prevalence Among Survey Respondents

Do you have what you consider to be a physical disability?

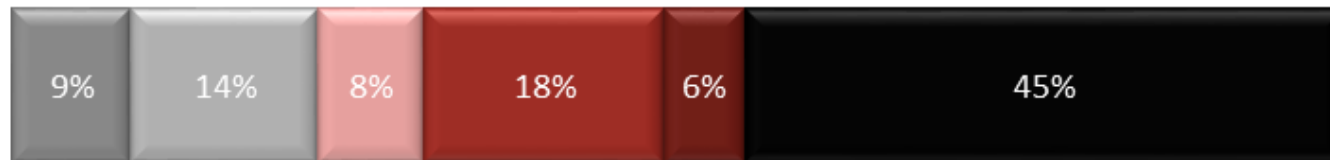


■ Yes, I have a physical disability

■ I have mobility or other physical, vision or hearing challenges, but don't consider myself to have a disability

Exposure to Disability Among Survey Respondents

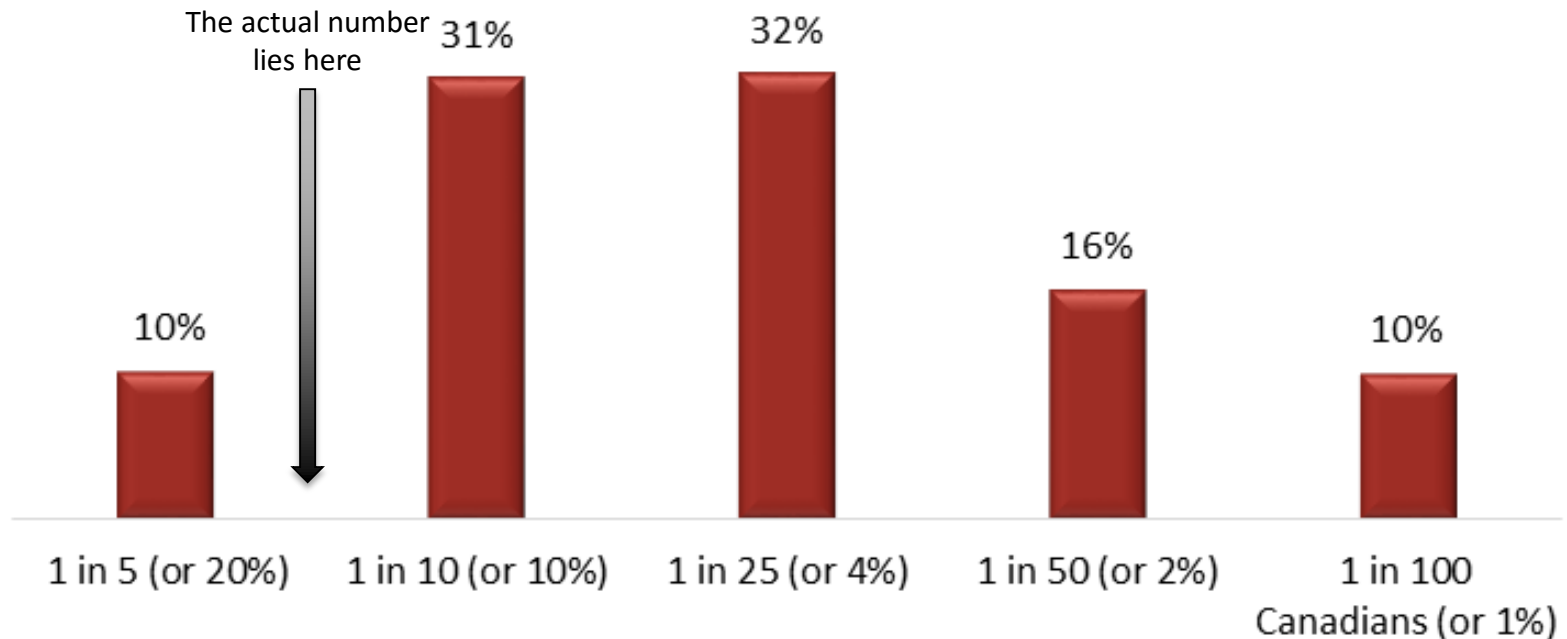
Canadians' exposure to disability
(exclusive categories shown):



- Have a physical disability themselves
- Mobility or other challenges, but don't consider it a disability
- Live with someone who has a physical disability
- A family member or close friend with a physical disability
- A co-worker or classmate with a disability
- No personal experience with or exposure to disability

Perceptions about Prevalence

What would be your estimate of how many Canadians have physical disabilities?
(official estimate 13.7%)



Attitudes about disability in Canada

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

I never notice any disabled people actually using the disabled washroom or ramps etc



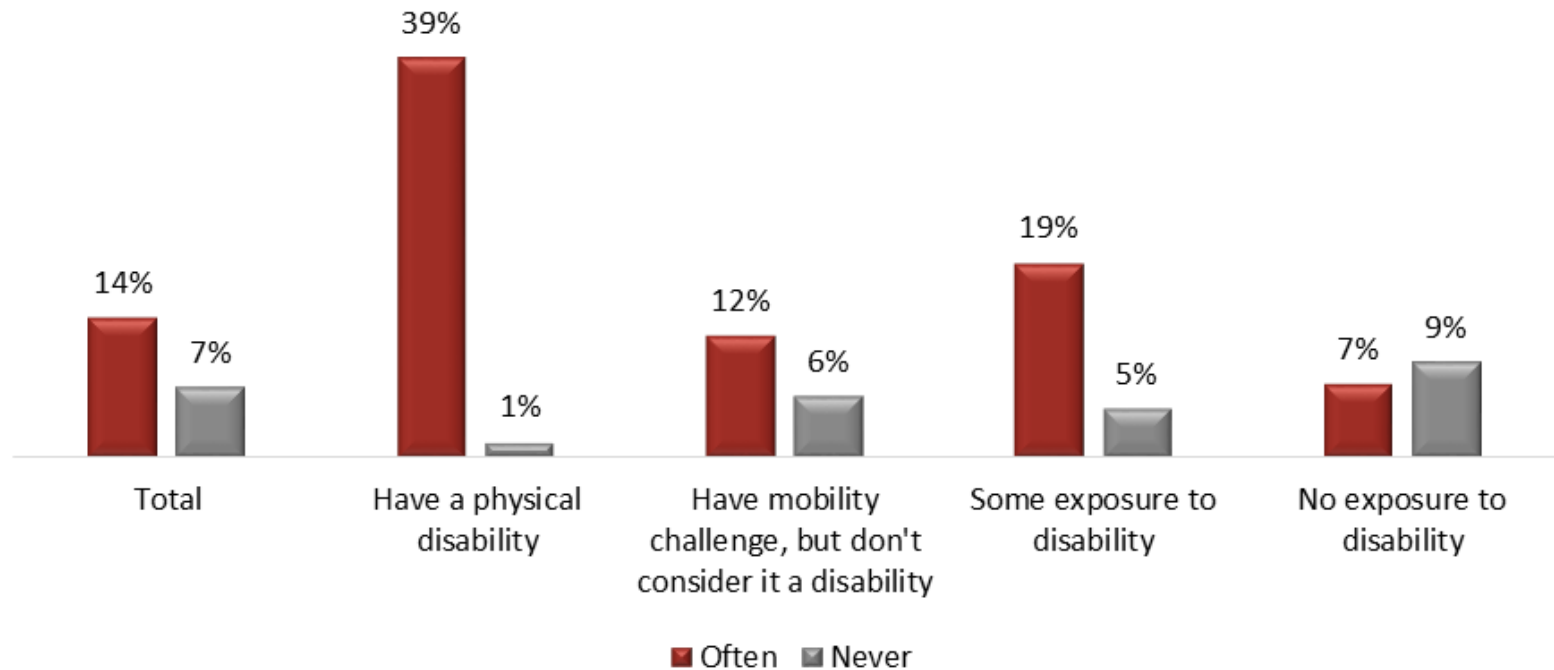
It's understandable that employers feel it is risky to hire people with physical disabilities



■ Strongly agree ■ Moderately agree ■ Moderately disagree ■ Strongly disagree

Personal Resonance

How much, if at all, do you think about this issue of accessibility for people with physical disabilities?



Canadian mindsets on disability issues

The On-Side (34%)

- Most exposed to this issue
- Unanimous view of Accessibility as a human right
- 98% say making places accessible is worth the cost
- Most socially engaged
- Most likely to donate time or money to charity



Canadian mindsets on disability issues

The Young Bystanders (28%)

- Least personal exposure to disability
- “Idealists” about inclusiveness and human rights ... but concerned about costs
- 82% “understand” if employers think it’s risky to hire people with physical disabilities
- Least likely to donate money to charity



Canadian mindsets on disability issues

The Older Detached (22%)

- Higher awareness of disability issues
- Less enthusiasm for idealistic views
- Strongly against the notion that cost or risk should justify non-action
- But 29% say accessibility should be high priority for government (7% below national average)



Canadian mindsets on disability issues

The Indifferent (15%)

- Smallest segment, ½ are men under 55
- 68% disagree people w/disabilities face lots of discrimination
- 45% say accessibility is not worth the cost
- Half say accessibility is a privilege, not a right



Barriers: Priorities and Improvement



Barriers

- Employment opportunities are seen as the biggest barrier to people with physical disabilities
- A lack of understanding of both the needs and potential of people with disabilities follow closely behind
- Educational opportunities and equal access to health care are seen as the smallest barriers to be overcome

Attitudes about Disability and Accessibility

- 90% feel ensuring everyone can fully participate, regardless of physical ability should be a high priority
- 80% feel cost should not hinder accessibility
- 25% say not a lot of prejudice exists towards people with physical disabilities
- 91% believe that accessibility is a basic human right, not a privilege



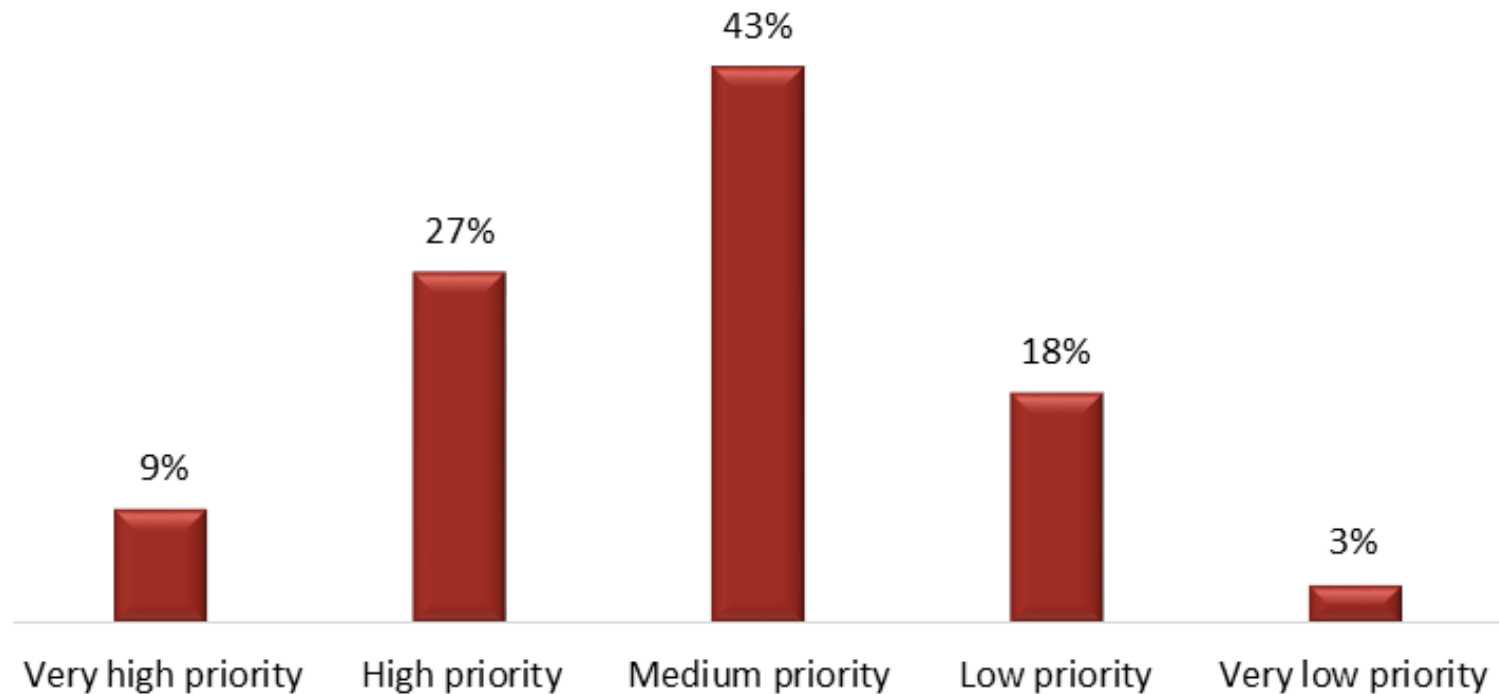
The “Accessibility Gap”



- The Accessibility Gap = the difference between # who see high accessibility standards as ideal & # who feel current accessibility actually lives up to the ideal
- Largest gaps found in opportunities for sports and recreation, and public transport within the city
- Lowest gaps seen re: entry into public buildings, such as hospitals and libraries, has the lowest accessibility gap

The Public Agenda

How much of a priority do you consider this to be for Canada today?



The Public Agenda

How important do you personally consider each of the following issues to be?



Key take-aways

- Canadians significantly under-estimate the prevalence of disability
- Canadians can be grouped into four mindsets on disability: On-side, Younger Bystanders, Older Detached, and the Indifferent
- **The public sees vast room for improvement in overcoming barriers and bridging gaps in accessibility in their own communities**

Read the Full Study

Comprehensive report, data tables &
questionnaire can be found at:

<http://angusreid.org/rhf-accessibility/>

Thank You & Questions

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