

2(E) People with Disabilities

Kerry Network of People with Disabilities conducted a survey on the needs of people with disabilities in Kerry. 104 people took part in the survey. This sample allowed for the representative inclusion of different age groups, geographical locations, gender and forms of disability.

The majority of those employed are in part-time work, 46% are permanent. The most important aspects of work are financial security and independence.

Transport

Apart from the use of private cars, respondents make more frequent use of voluntary and privately owned means of transport, than public transport services. The highest usage is recorded for buses provided by voluntary agencies; and more use is made of taxis than public transport buses.

44% of respondents use their own car, 51% depend on family and friends.

Barriers in using public transport (bus) 41% claim not available, 35% saw the service as being inaccessible. For those people depending most upon taxis as a form of transport, expense of the service was the most significant barrier.

Social Participation

The most frequent social contact in a social/recreational sense was either through going to public houses or to church. Less than 20% visited the cinema monthly or more frequently, and only 10% participated in any form of sporting activity on a monthly basis.

Only a minority of people (26%) identified their own disability as the major barrier to cinema-going. Almost 43% cited either lack of transport or cost as principle prohibitive factor.

In the case of socialising in bars, the single biggest barrier was the lack of physical access (almost 33%), followed by cost.

Most notable barriers include: transportation, negative attitudes towards people with disabilities and frequently cited absence of a companion across all social activities.

Source: KNPD

According to the SCFA statistics 1999:

Blind Persons Pension =	99 people (<i>availing of payment</i>)
Disability Allowance =	2,252 people
Invalidity Pension =	1,065 people

According to the Kerry Network of People with Disabilities in Ireland, it is accepted that 10% of the population has a disability, as the question was not asked in the last census this is the accepted calculation for an area. The next census will have figures on people with disabilities, therefore taking their calculation and the 1996 population figures there are approx. 12,613 people with disabilities in County Kerry.

In the survey conducted by the Kerry Network of People with Disabilities 20% were unable to work this would be approx. 2,522. In 1999, 2,252 excluding 1,065 invalidity pension and 99 blind pension were in receipt of Disability Allowance. Which almost reflects the 20% figure of 2,522. (this is just a manipulation of figures but shows that the 10% is approximately correct)

2(F) Local Authority Housing

Number of dwellings occupied in 1997 Kerry County Council was 2,074

Listowel UDC	156
Tralee UDC	907
Killarney UDC	205

Source KCC