

Disability Statistics in the People's Republic of China

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Abstract This paper tries to present the figures of people with disabilities in China. As we all know, China is a developing country in the world, so to a certain extent it is difficult to collect an accurate figures of the total number of people with disabilities. At the beginning, the classification of disability will be stated in order to make a clear picture of the classification in China. After analyzing some surveys collected and conducted previously, a general picture of the total number of people with disabilities will be drawn.

Introduction to National Sampling Survey of Disabled Persons in the People's Republic of China

China is a developing country with the largest population in the world and also has the most populous disabled people in the world. Because of this, it is not easy to administrate the census of disabled population.

According to the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Disabled Persons, a disabled person refers to one who suffers from abnormalities or loss of certain organ or function, psychologically or in anatomical structure and has lost wholly or in part the ability to perform an activity in the way considered normal. In 1987, a national sampling survey of disabled population was administrated in China. This was the first and only national survey of disabled population in China.

In this survey, 369,448 families and 1,579,316 people were sampled. Then, 66,902 families, which have family members with disabilities were selected. Finally, 77,345 disabled persons had been determined.

The Classification and Grading of Disabled Persons

According to the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Disabled Persons, the term "disabled person" refers to those with visual, hearing, speech or physical disabilities, mental retardation, mental disorder, multiple disabilities and / or other disabilities. In 1987, the State Council had established disability classification system with five sub-classifications for the national census. They are visual impairment, hearing and speech impairment, mental retardation, physical handicaps and mental disorder. The grading standard of each category is as follows:

1. Visual Impairment: it can be divided into two categories, blind and low-vision.

CATEGORIES	GRADING	STANDARD
Blind	1	Single eyed vision is no greater than 0.02 or visual field is no less 5 degree

	2	Single eyed vision is no less than 0.05 and no greater 0.02 or visual field is no less 10 degree
Low-vision	1	Single eyed vision is no less than 0.05 and no grater 0.02
	2	Single eyed vision is no less than 0.03 and no greater than 0.1

2. Hearing and Speech Impairment: it can be divided into three categories.

CATEGORIES	GRADING	STANDARD
Deaf	1	The loss of hearing is greater than 91 decibels
	2	The loss of hearing is no less than 71 decibels and no greater than 90 decibels
Hearing Impairment	1	The loss of hearing is no less than 56 decibels and no greater than 70 decibels
	2	The loss of hearing is no less than 41 decibels and no greater than 55 decibels
Speech Handicap		

3. Mental Retardation: The mentally retarded peoples can be graded into four categories in accordance with the WHO and AAMD (American Association for Mental Retardation) standards.

CATEGORIES	SD	IQ	ADAPTATION
Very severely MR	>>5.01	20~25	very severely deficiency of adaptation
Severely MR	4.10~5	20~35or25~40	severely deficiency of adaptation
Moderate MR	3.01~4	35~50or40~55	moderate deficiency of adaptation
Less MR	2.01~3	50~70or55~75	mild deficiency of adaptation

4. Physical Handicaps: Physical handicap people can be divided into four categories. They are: a. loss of upper or lower limbs due to trauma, disease or congenital factors. b. Anamorphosis or dysfunction of upper or lower limbs due to trauma, disease or congenital factors. c. Anamorphosis or dysfunction of spinal cord. d. Anamorphosis or dysfunction of trunk or limbs due to trauma, disease or congenital factors. They can be graded basis on the parts and degrees of disability and functional barriers.

CATEGORIES	GRADING	STANDARD
1	0~2	Complete loss of ADL
2	3~4	basic loss of ADL
3	5~6	partial maintaining of ADL
4	7~8	basic maintaining of ADL

5. Mental Disorder. It includes four categories. They are: a. Organic psychosis with psychotic symptoms. b. Psychoactive substance-induced residual disorder. c. Schizophrenia. d. Disability due to affective, paranoid, response, schizotypal affective, periodic psychotic disorder.

All persons can be graded the mental disorder peoples into four categories basis on the Scale of Screening of Deficiencies of Social Function by WHO.

General Procedures of Sampling Survey for Disabled Population

The national sampling survey was carried out in April 1, 1987 in 29 provinces and autonomous regions. 1,500,000 population were sampled by using the stratified sampling method.

Sampling at three levels was administrated. The offices at provincial level selected 424 counties, then the counties selected 1,852 villages, towns and streets and the villages. Finally, towns and streets selected 3,569 residents committees for this survey.

The investigation was administrated in two stages. Firstly residential family investigation. The 369,448 sampled families and 1,579,316 people were asked to report the disabled candidates according to the screening table. Secondly disabled person investigation. All candidates received medical test were graded according to the Classification of Disabled Persons. 66,902 families with disabled persons and 77,345 people with disabilities were selected.

Special processes were used for quality control. The data were processed by handiwork and computer. The offices at county level summed up the data by age, sex and grading. The offices at provincial level summed up the data and reported to the Office of National Sampling Survey of the Handicapped. For the computer processing, the data were encoded at the provincial level by the Office of National Sampling Survey of the Handicapped. All encoded data were processed by Computer Center of National Planning Committee.

General Statistics for Disabled Population by Categories, Age, Literacy, Vocation, Nationality, Marriage, ADL, Social Activity, Working Ability, Financial Resources

1. National population of disabled persons by categories

As shown in Table 1, the national population of disabled persons is 88,763 (including multiple handicaps). The most population of disabled persons are the people with hearing and speech impairment.

Table 1 National Population of Disabled Persons by Category (including multiple handicaps)

Categories	Population			% of Total disabled persons		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
-						
Vision impairment	5,937	9,986	15,923	6.69	11.25	17.94
Hearing and speech impairment	17,414	17,030	34,444	19.62	19.19	38.80
Including Speech handicaps	1,419	850	2,269	1.60	0.96	2.56
Mental retardation	10,482	9,540	20,022	11.81	10.75	22.56
Physical handicaps	8,354	6,113	14,467	9.41	6.89	16.30
Mental disorder	1,780	2,127	3,907	2.00	2.40	4.40
Total population	43,967	44,796	88,763	49.53	50.47	100.00

2. The National population of disabled persons by categories and grading

The National population of disabled persons by categories and grading is shown in Table 2.

Table 2 The National Population of Disabled Persons by Categories and Grading

Categories and grading	Male	Female	Total
Vision impairment	5,937	9,986	15,923
Blind 1	1,650	2,931	4,581
Blind 2	786	1,459	2,245
Low-vision 1	794	1,368	2,162
Low-vision 2	2,707	4,228	6,935
Hearing & speech impairment	17,414	17,030	34,444
Deaf 1	2,557	2,505	5,062
Deaf 2	3,440	3,324	6,764
Low-hearing 1	4,625	4,882	9,507
Low-hearing 2	5,373	5,469	10,842
Speech impairment	1,419	850	2,269
Mental retardation	10,482	9,540	20,022
Extremely severely MR	577	499	1,076
Severely MR	1,309	1,179	2,488
Moderate MR	3,342	3,159	6,501
Mild MR	5,254	4,703	9,957
Physical Handicaps	8,354	6,113	14,467
Grade 1	450	426	876
Grade 2	1,048	860	1,908

Grade 3	2,051	1,403	3,454
Grade 4	4,805	3,424	8,229
Mental Disorder	1,780	2,127	3,907
Grade 1	858	999	1,857
Grade 2	242	292	534
Grade 3	275	320	595
Grade 4	405	516	921

3. The National population of disabled persons by age

The National population of disabled persons by age is shown in Table 3.

Table 3 The National Population of Disabled Persons by Age

Age	Total	Male	Female
0-4 years	2,221	1,205	1,016
5-9 years	4,070	2,250	1,820
10-14 years	5,951	3,343	2,608
15-19 years	4,348	2,444	1,904
20-24 years	3,888	2,142	1,746
25-29 years	2,692	1,498	1,194
30-34 years	3,798	2,037	1,761
35-39 years	3,746	1,982	1,764
40-44 years	3,303	1,727	1,576
45-49 years	3,390	1,792	1,598
50-54 years	4,160	2,091	2,069
55-59 years	5,057	2,563	2,494
60-64 years	6,032	3,001	3,031
65-69 years	6,573	3,167	3,406
70-74 years	6,889	3,136	3,753
75-79 years	5,792	2,433	3,359
80-84 years	3,714	1,342	2,372
85-89 years	1,325	417	908
90-99 years	379	120	259
Over 100 years	17	4	13

4. The National population of employed disabled persons by vocation and education

The National population of employed disabled persons by vocation and education is shown in Table 4.

Table 4 The National Population of Employed Disabled Persons by Vocation and Education

Vocational categories	Employed disabled persons			Education					
				University			high school		
-	Total	male	female	Total	male	female	Total	male	female
1. professional and technical personnel	491	374	117	81	69	12	154	103	51
2. leaders of public institutions	146	130	16	10	9	1	36	32	4
3. public servant	142	99	43	6	3	3	46	29	17
4. business	439	308	131	2	2	-	45	33	12
5. service	849	635	214	2	1	1	49	28	21
6. agriculture, forest, pasturage, fishery	18,818	12,388	6,430	4	3	1	239	199	40
7. production, transportation workers	2,277	1,602	675	9	7	2	223	147	76
8. others	54	36	18	3	3	-	9	8	1
9. total	23,216	15,572	7,644	117	97	20	801	579	222

5. The national population of unemployed disabled persons

The national population of unemployed disabled persons (15 or above 15 years old) is shown in Table 5.

Table 5 The National Population of Unemployed Disabled Persons

-	Total	Male	Female
School or college students	575	412	163
Housework	14,942	2,675	12,267
Await for job after graduation	28	13	15
Await for study	10	5	5
Await for job at cities or towns	185	110	75
Retirement or withdrawal from job	3,802	2,730	1,072
Others	22,345	10,379	11,966
Total	41,887	16,324	25,563

6. The financial resources of national population with disability

The financial resources of national population with disability are shown in Table 6.

Table 6 The Financial Resources of National Population with Disability

Categories	Disabled persons	Personal income		Family afford		Nation or collective	
		No.	% of income	No.	% of income	No.	% of income
-	-	No.	% of income	No.	% of income	No.	% of income
Vision-impaired	11,300	2,804	30.27	8,106	71.73	390	2.65
Hearing-impaired	26,518	11,950	45.06	14,025	52.89	543	2.05
Speech disabled	1,002	398	39.72	596	59.48	8	0.08
Mental Retardation	15,235	2,700	17.72	12,392	81.34	143	0.94
Physical handicaps	11,305	3,922	34.69	6,957	61.54	426	3.77
Mental Disorder	2,907	720	24.77	2,023	69.59	164	5.64
Multiple handicaps	10,080	1,318	13.08	8,380	83.13	382	3.79
Total	77,345	23,414	30.27	51,883	67.08	2,048	2.65

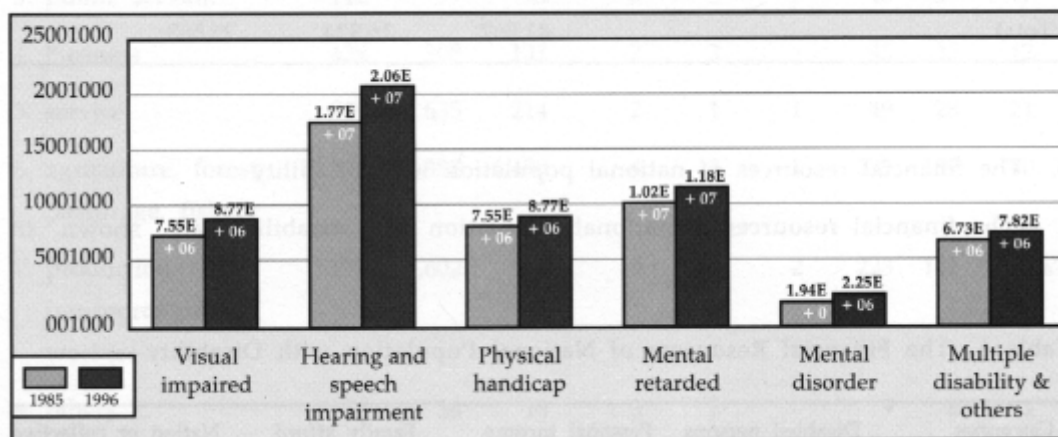
The Growth of Disabled Population from 1987 to 1996

In 1996, the China Disabled Persons Federation announced new statistics of disabled persons. At present; there are 1.2 billion population and 60 million disabled peoples in the P.R. China. About 5% of total population are disabled persons. They are as follows:

1. Vision impairment	8,770,000
2. Hearing and speech impairment	20,570,000
3. Mental retardation	11,820,000
4. Physically handicaps	8,770,000
5. Mental disorder	2,250,000
6. Multiple disabilities and other disabilities	7,820,000

Comparing to the statistics in 1985, there are some increases in disabled population.

Figure 1 The Growth of Disabled Population in China from 1987 to 1996



Among the 60 million people, there are 25,080,000 who are employable and with legislative employment age. Among them, there are 4,500,000 who are non-agricultural population in urban areas and 20,580,000 agricultural population in rural areas. They are the target population for employment service and vocational rehabilitation.

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