

Disability Health and Wellbeing Insights: Pathways to Better Outcomes

Empowering People with Disability through Improved Data

People with disability face poorer physical and mental health than others. Data and evidence are critical to ensure that people with disability get good care and services when needed, are healthy and enjoy the life they live.

Building better data foundations

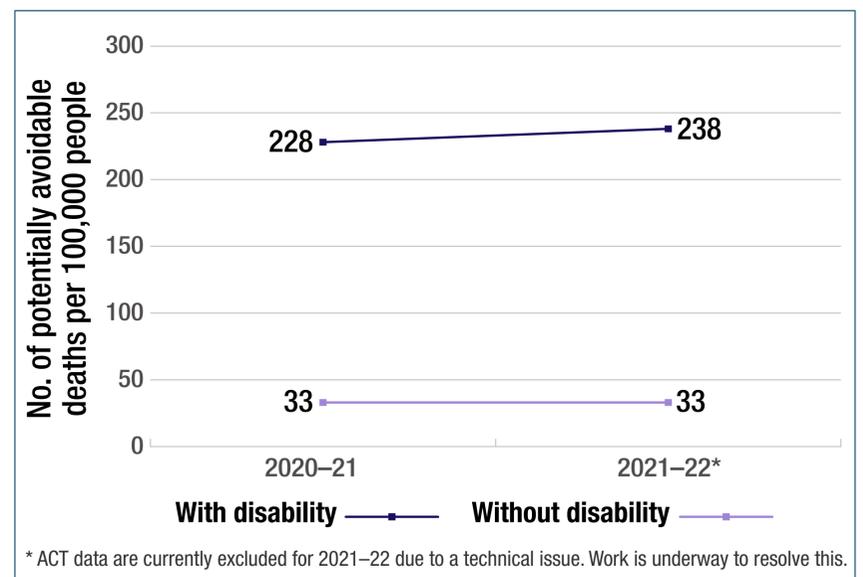
Until recently, data on health service use and outcomes for Australian people with disability were limited. New ways of identifying people with disability in national linked data were developed under the National Disability Data Asset. These first-generation disability flags identified people receiving or eligible for disability-related supports and services.

Linked health measures

Disability flags were used to examine several key health measures using linked national data from the National Health Data Hub, providing first insights into health outcomes experienced by people with disabilities within Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework.

For people with disability, from 2020–21 to 2021–22:

- deaths that could have been prevented with timely care remained steady (228 to 238 per 100,000), and were higher than for people without disability (33 per 100,000)
- emergency department visits for GP-type problems (18,261 to 17,608 per 100,000) and involuntary hospital admissions (2,013 to 1,841 per 100,000) decreased.



What's next?

Work is underway to refine the disability flags and further examine health outcomes, including hospital and mental health service use. This is led by a disability-inclusive research team in collaboration with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

For more information:

Scan the QR code below to view the health and wellbeing indicators on the AIHW Australia's Disability Strategy Outcomes Framework website.

Contact details:

Email the AIHW at: disability@aihw.gov.au

