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## Updates

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## PROFILE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

*This issue is the last of a four-part series on the 1995 CENSUS OF POPULATION (POPCEN) dealing on labor concerns. **Disability** refers to any restriction or lack of ability (resulting from impairment) to perform any activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being. This impairment may be physical, mental or sensory motor impairment such as partial or total blindness and deafness, muteness, speech defect, orthopedic handicap and mental retardation.*

### *More than 900,000 Filipinos with disability*

The 1995 CENSUS OF POPULATION reported 919,292 persons or about 1.3 percent of 68.6 million Filipinos burdened by some type of disability.

The National Capital Region (NCR) had the highest number of disabled persons at 123,008 or 13.4 percent of total disabled. Region VI and Region IV each with more than 100,000 disabled persons followed with 11.4 percent and 11.1 percent, respectively. CAR and ARMM had the lowest proportions of disabled persons with only 2.0 percent (18,709) and 1.2 percent (11,197), respectively. (Table 1)



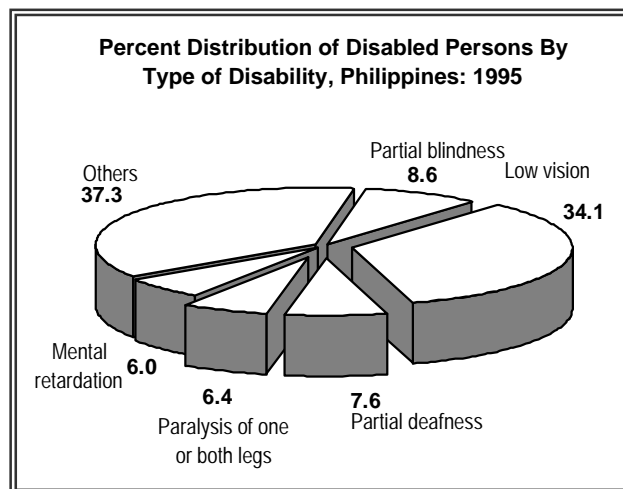
### ***Low vision: most common disability***

Low vision, the most common disability afflicted more than one third of the total disabled. Other disabilities were partial blindness (8.6%), partial deafness (7.6%), paralysis of one or both legs (6.4%) and mental retardation (6.0%). Other impairments on vision, hearing, speech, limbs and mental abilities ranged from 1.2 to 4.2 percent.

There were slightly more disabled males (51.1%) than females (48.9%). The aforementioned five (5) disabilities were also the most prevalent in either of the sexes.

However, in proportion to their respective total, there was a higher proportion of females (66.7% out of

449,445) who suffered from these common impairments than males (58.7% out of 469,847).



### ***Around 30 percent of disabled person were 65 years and over***

The highest proportion or 29.7 percent of the disabled were 65 years old and over. Those in the age group 45 - 64 accounted for 28.9 percent while the age group 25 - 44 shared 19.5 percent of the total.

Considering that low vision is generally tied up with age, the proportion of persons with this disability increases as they become older.

It was also noted that the disabled males (58.8) outproportioned the females (50.9) up to age 54.

**Percent Distribution of Disabled Persons By Sex and Age Group, Philippines: 1995**

Age Group	Both Sexes	Male	Female
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>919.3</b>	<b>469.8</b>	<b>449.4</b>
<b>Percent</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Below 15	11.9	13.5	10.3
15-19	5.3	5.8	4.8
20-24	4.8	5.2	4.3
25-34	9.3	10.1	8.4
35-44	10.2	10.7	9.8
45-54	13.4	13.5	13.3
55-64	15.5	15.1	15.8
65 & over	29.7	26.1	33.4

**Meanwhile, the age groups 55 and over there were more female (49.2) with disability than males (41.2).**

Noteworthy, is the high proportion of the disabled population below 15 years old at 11.9 percent for both sexes, 13.5

**percent for males and 10.3 percent for females. In this age group, 13.7 percent were mentally retarded while 13.5 percent and 11.4 percent suffered from speech defects and muteness, respectively particularly those between 5 - 14 years old.**

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**Table 1 - Distribution of Disabled Persons by Region,  
Philippines: 1995**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Number (000)</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	<b>919.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>
NCR	123.0	13.4
CAR	18.7	2.0
Region I	80.9	8.8
Region II	35.5	3.9
Region III	90.9	9.9
Region IV	101.7	11.1
Region V	86.9	9.4
Region VI	104.7	11.4
Region VII	60.7	6.6
Region VIII	61.6	6.7
Region IX	25.6	2.8
Region X	27.3	3.0
Region XI	47.7	5.2
Region XII	22.0	2.4
ARMM	11.2	1.2
Caraga	20.8	2.3

*Source of data: National Statistics Office, 1995 Census of Population.*

**Table 2 - Distribution of Disabled Persons By Type of Disability and Sex,  
Philippines: 1995**

<b>Type of Disability</b>	<b>Both Sexes</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>919,292</b>	<b>469,847</b>	<b>449,445</b>
<b>Percent</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>48.9</b>
Total blindness	3.4	1.6	1.8
Partial blindness	8.6	4.5	4.1
Low vision	34.1	14.3	19.8
Total deafness	2.5	1.3	1.2
Partial deafness	7.6	4.0	3.6
Poor hearing ability	2.5	1.2	1.2
Muteness	3.9	2.1	1.8
Speech defect	4.2	2.3	1.9
Loss of one or both arms/hands	1.3	1.0	0.3
Loss of one or both legs/feet	1.4	1.0	0.4
Paralysis of one or both arms	1.6	1.1	0.5
Paralysis of one or both legs	6.4	3.9	2.4
Paralysis of one arm and one leg	3.5	2.2	1.3
Paralysis of all four limbs	1.2	0.7	0.5
Mental retardation	6.0	3.2	2.8
Mental illness	4.2	2.2	2.0
Others	7.8	4.5	3.3

*Source of data: National Statistics Office, 1995 Census of Population.*