

CO1.9: Child Disability

Definitions and methodology

This indicator presents data of children with a disability in OECD countries. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities proposes the following definition: “persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others” (UN, 1998). However, definitions and data availability vary across countries, thus limiting international comparisons on prevalence and trends.

This indicator presents data from national surveys with information on disability of children under the age of 15. These data are not fully comparable across countries, but they nevertheless provide a broad picture of the situation of disabled children across OECD countries.

This indicator also presents information on the proportion of teenagers (15-19 years old) and young people (20-24 and 25-29 years old) with a limitation in their usual activities because of health problems for at least 6 months. This information is disaggregated by severity levels: "strongly limited" and "limited", and based on self-reported data collected through the European Survey on Living Conditions 2009 (EUSILC 2009).

The educational attainment, employment and unemployment status of young people (18 -29 years old) with and without disability or limitation in its activities is presented using data from EUSILC and the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS).

In addition, family cash benefits to assist parents with a disabled child are presented. This includes cash transfers aimed at providing financial support for the additional costs of caring a disabled child. Definitions and methods for assessing whether children are eligible for receiving disability benefits are specific to each country.

Key facts

Table CO1.9.1 presents estimates on child disability rates disaggregated by sex and age as based on national surveys or censuses. . They are presented separately for each country because the underlying methodological differences make a full cross-country comparison impossible. The highest disability rates for children aged 0 to 14 were reported in Australia, New Zealand and the United States, where the disability rate was estimated between 7.0 and 10.4%. By contrast; the lowest levels were reported in Mexico and Spain, with only 1.4 and 1.8%. Differences in the definition of disability and the methodology to collect this information lay behind these gaps.

Estimates for countries that examined severity levels of disability indicate that the proportion of children 0 to 14 years old with a severe disability ranged between 4.0% in Australia and the United States to 1.4% in Canada. It is possible that the rates in Chile, Mexico and Spain are more comparable with the rates for severely disabled children in the Anglophone countries. Underreporting of disability is more common when this kind of information is collected through a census and not through a specialised survey; where disability benefits are not well developed; where disability is not well recognised; or, where it is stigmatised. WHO (2011) presents estimates on the global prevalence of moderate and severe disability

among children 0 to 14 years old, based on its Global Burden of Disease Study 2004. In high-income countries the child disability rate was 2.8% -- almost half the global rate of 5.0%.

Table CO1.9.1 National estimates on the proportion of children with a disability by age and sex

Australia (2009)	Boys			Girls			Total		
	0-4 yrs %	5-14 yrs %	0-14 yrs %	0-4 yrs %	5-14 yrs %	0-14 yrs %	0-4 yrs %	5-14 yrs %	0-14 yrs %
Disability rate	3.9	11.4	8.8	2.8	6.1	5.0	3.4	8.8	7.0
Profound/severe	2.9	6.6	5.3	1.5	3.0	2.5	2.3	4.8	4.0
Moderate/mild	0.2	2.0	1.3	0.1	1.6	1.1	0.1	1.8	1.2
Has disability, not limited in core activities, restricted in schooling	-	1.6	1.0	-	0.8	0.5	-	1.2	0.8
Has disability, not limited in core activities or restricted in schooling	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0

Source: ABS 2009 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

Canada (2001)	Total			Canada (2006)	Total		
	0-4 yrs %	5-14 yrs %	0-14 yrs %		0-4 yrs %	5-14 yrs %	0-14 yrs %
Disability rate	1.4	4.2	3.3	Disability rate	1.2	3.4	2.7
Mild to moderate	0.8	2.4	1.9				
Severe to very severe	0.6	1.8	1.4				

Source: Statistics Canada, Participation and Activity Limitation Survey, 2001 and 2006.

Chile (2006)	Total			
	0-5 yrs %	6-13 yrs %	14-17 yrs %	0-17 yrs %
Disability rate	1.4	3.1	3.2	2.6

Source: CASEN 2006.

Mexico (2010)	Boys				Girls				Total			
	0-4 yrs %	5-9 yrs %	10-14 yrs %	0-14 yrs %	0-4 yrs %	5-9 yrs %	10-14 yrs %	0-14 yrs %	0-4 yrs %	5-9 yrs %	10-14 yrs %	0-14 yrs %
Disability rate	0.9	1.9	2.0	1.6	0.7	1.4	1.6	1.2	0.8	1.6	1.8	1.4

Source: INEGI. Censo de Población y Vivienda 2010: Tabulados del Cuestionario Básico.

New Zealand (2006)	Boys				Girls				Total			
	0-4 yrs %	5-9 yrs %	10-14 yrs %	0-14 yrs %	0-4 yrs %	5-9 yrs %	10-14 yrs %	0-14 yrs %	0-4 yrs %	5-9 yrs %	10-14 yrs %	0-14 yrs %
Disability rate	6.1	12.9	16.1	12.1	5.5	9.8	10.2	8.7	5.8	11.4	13.2	10.4
Low support												4.2
Medium support												4.7
High support												1.5

Source: Disability Survey (2006).

Table CO1.9.1 National estimates on the proportion of children with a disability by age and sex(cont.)

Spain (1999)	Boys				Girls				Total			
	0-5 yrs %	6-9 yrs %	10-15 yrs %	0-15 yrs %	0-5 yrs %	6-9 yrs %	10-15 yrs %	0-15 yrs %	0-5 yrs %	6-9 yrs %	10-15 yrs %	0-15 yrs %
Disability rate	2.2	1.9	1.5	1.8	2.3	1.9	1.4	1.9	2.2	1.5	1.6	1.8

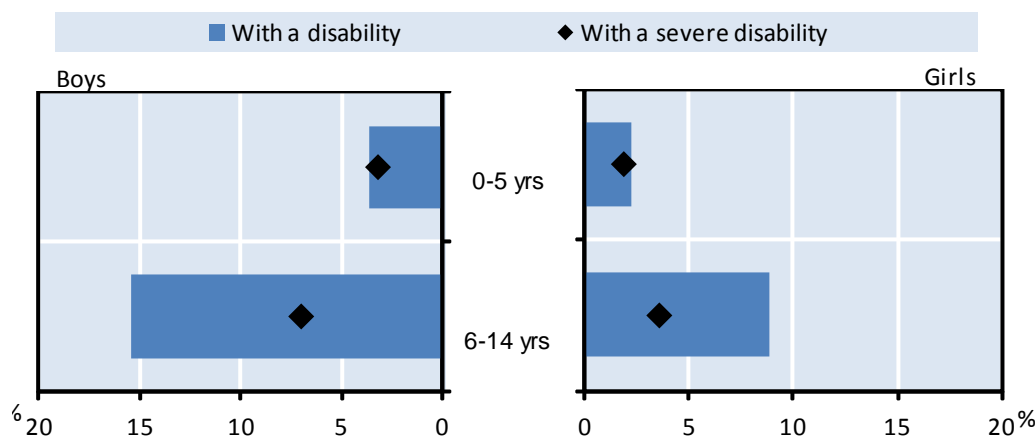
Source: INE. Módulo de Discapacidades y Deficiencias (1999).

United States (2010)	Boys			Girls			Total		
	0-5 yrs %	6-14 yrs %	0-14 yrs %	0-5 yrs %	6-14 yrs %	0-14 yrs %	0-5 yrs %	6-14 yrs %	0-14 yrs %
With a disability	3.6	15.4	10.7	2.3	8.9	6.3	2.9	12.2	8.5
With a severe disability	3.2	7.0	5.5	1.9	3.6	2.9	2.6	5.3	4.2
Needs assistance	-	0.9	-	-	0.7	-	-	0.8	-

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (2010).

Boys are more likely than girls to have a disability, and the severity of the disability also tends to be higher among boys than girls (Table CO9.1.1). Figure CO1.9.1 shows the prevalence rates by sex for children in the United States. Across all age groups the proportion of disabled boys was higher than that of girls, especially amongst the 6 to 14 year-age group. Learning impairments, such as autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, are more likely to be identified when children start school; that is, around age 5. Boys are more likely to be diagnosed with learning disabilities than girls, which explains the higher rates for boys in this age group.

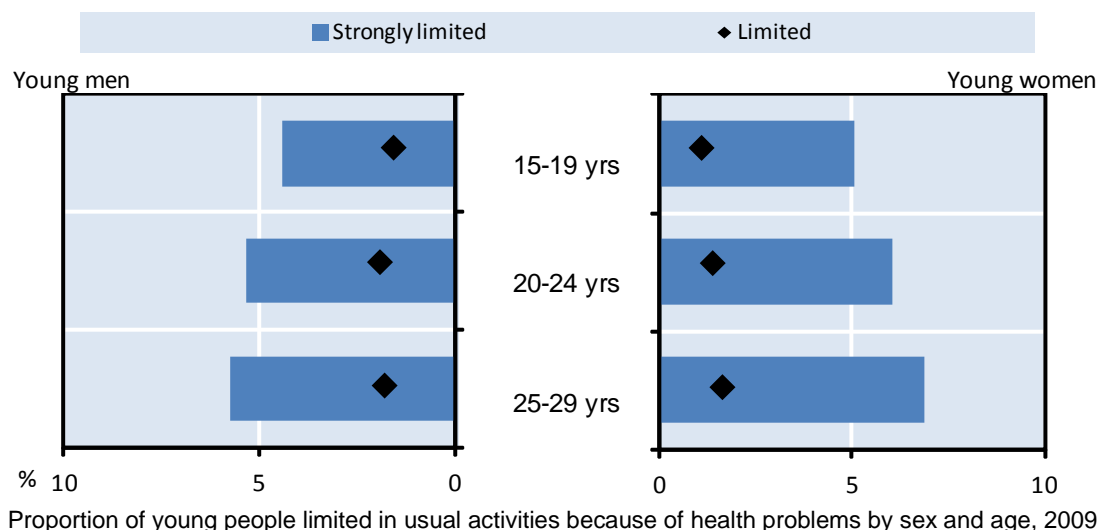
Figure CO1.9.1 Boys are more likely than girls to experience a disability



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (2010).

Figure CO1.9.2 shows that after age 15, the disability gender gap disappears. No gender differences are observed for the prevalence of severely limited activities. However; a small differences is observed for medium levels of disability, with a slightly higher proportion of young women reporting limitations in their usual activities due to a health problem

Figure CO1.9.2 Young women report higher levels of disability than young men



Notes: Bulgaria, Greece, Latvia and Malta were not included because of the small underlying sample sizes.

Source: EUSILC (2010).

The table and figures above show that disability increases with age because as time passes by people are more exposed to illnesses or accidents that can lead to a disability: In addition, some disabilities are not identified before age 5. It is until children reach school age that some learning impairments may be recognised and children with special educational needs identified (see CX3.1).

The literature suggests that disabled children are more vulnerable than their non-disabled peers in a number of areas. For example, children with disabilities tend to have lower educational achievements, higher poverty rates, and less economic participation when young adults than their non-disabled peers. Moreover, children with disabilities have greater risk of being victims of violence, including bullying, than their peers without disabilities (Jones L., *et al.*, 2012 and Sentenac, M. *et al.*, 2012)).

Education, employment and unemployment outcomes

Table CO1.9.3 presents educational attainment rates for young people aged 18-29 years by disability status. The rates are disaggregated for three levels of educational attainment: 1) low: those who have not completed upper secondary education (ISCED levels 0-2); 2) medium: those who have completed upper secondary or post secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED levels 3 or 4); and, 3) high: those who have completed tertiary education (ISCED levels 5 and 6). The table shows that across countries young people with disabilities have lower educational attainment than their non-disabled peers. The largest gaps are observed in the United States and the smallest in Slovak Republic. On average, disabled young people are 40% more likely to have low levels of education than their non-disabled counterparts.

Table CO1.9.4 shows employment and unemployment rates for young people aged 18-29 years by disability status. Employment rates are higher among non-disabled youth than among their disabled peers. The gaps are largest in Hungary, the United States and Sweden and smallest in Austria and Finland. On average, disabled youth is 30% less to have an employment than their non-disabled peers. On the other

hand; unemployment rates are higher among disabled young people than non-disabled in most countries; exceptions include Estonia, Ireland, Luxembourg and the United States.

Table CO1.9.5 presents poverty rates for families with children by disability status of a household member aged between 15 and 64 (separate data on households with disabled children is not available). In most countries, poverty rates are higher for families with a disabled member than for their counterparts without disabled members. The largest gaps are observed in the United States, where 30.6% of families with a disabled member were classified as poor compared with 19.4% of families without a disabled member. In countries like Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Ireland and the United Kingdom poverty rates for families with a disabled member are either at a similar level or somewhat smaller than among their non-disabled peers. These countries have comprehensive disability benefits which may support the costs associated with a disabled member at home (Table CO1.9.6).

Table CO1.9.6 provides an overview of cash benefits to support families with a disabled child across OECD countries. In most cases, these payments are directly linked to the disabled child and available until a specific age limit, which ranges across countries from 16 and 26 years (the Czech Republic). In all countries, eligibility is subject to a medical certificate and an assessment of the severity of the level of disability. Definitions and assessment procedures differ across countries. In general, payment rates vary with the level of impairment, but it can also vary with age, family status and income.. For example, disabled children in sole-parent families in Australia and Portugal are entitled to higher allowances than children in couple- parent families. In some countries, parents may receive a supplementary payment – carer allowance -- for taking care of the disabled child in a full-time basis. Though not presented here, across OECD countries, families with a disabled child have access to other type of benefits such as extension of leave benefits, tax reductions, reductions in childcare/school fees, special discounts for prescribed medicines and for other public and private services.

Table CO1.9.3 Educational attainment of young people aged 18 - 29 years old by disability status, 2009¹

	Low ²			Medium			High		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Austria	24.9	37.9	26.2	65.5	51.9	64.2	9.6	10.26	9.66
Belgium	27.1	45.1	28.4	46.3	36.8	45.6	26.6	18.0	26.0
Canada ¹	33.6	42.0	34.7	44.9	42.8	44.6	21.5	15.3	20.7
Czech Republic	23.2	32.0	23.9	64.6	56.2	64.0	12.2	11.8	12.2
Denmark	27.6	38.1	29.6	56.2	47.9	54.7	16.2	14.1	15.8
Estonia	31.8	47.1	33.0	48.6	36.8	47.7	19.6	16.1	19.3
Finland	22.1	26.5	22.8	59.3	58.5	59.1	18.7	15.0	18.1
France	22.1	33.9	23.0	49.6	40.7	49.0	28.2	25.4	28.0
Germany	36.6	47.7	38.2	54.0	45.4	52.8	9.4	6.9	9.0
Hungary	30.0	42.4	30.6	58.1	50.4	57.7	11.9	7.2	11.7
Iceland	41.0	62.0	43.1	44.5	32.4	43.3	14.5	5.6	13.6
Ireland	14.1	33.5	15.6	59.6	49.4	58.8	26.4	17.1	25.6
Italy	30.7	39.2	31.2	57.0	51.9	56.7	12.3	8.9	12.1
Latvia	35.6	51.4	37.1	48.4	37.4	47.4	16.0	11.2	15.5
Luxembourg	40.1	34.3	39.8	41.0	49.2	41.5	18.9	16.5	18.7
Netherlands	15.7	29.9	17.8	53.6	47.6	52.7	30.7	22.5	29.5
Norway	39.2	48.5	40.0	40.0	44.4	40.4	20.8	7.1	19.6
Poland	20.5	27.6	21.0	61.4	61.3	61.4	18.1	11.0	17.7
Portugal	45.1	52.1	45.7	36.7	39.2	36.9	18.3	8.7	17.4
Slovak Republic	22.0	24.6	22.2	61.7	59.4	61.5	16.3	16.0	16.3
Slovenia	17.7	24.1	18.4	70.3	69.1	70.1	12.1	6.8	11.5
Spain	38.4	48.1	39.1	36.5	34.8	36.4	25.1	17.1	24.5
Sweden	14.8	24.9	15.5	59.9	56.7	59.7	25.3	18.3	24.8
United Kingdom	9.9	19.3	10.6	64.9	60.0	64.5	25.2	20.7	24.9
United States ¹	15.5	32.6	16.0	57.8	58.6	57.8	26.8	8.8	26.3

Notes: 1. Data refer to 2007 for Canada and 2010 for the United States

2. Level of educations was grouped into: low (lower than upper secondary education); medium (upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary); and, high (university/tertiary).

Source: OECD Secretariat estimates based on EUSILC (2009) for European countries and LIS for Canada (2007) and the United States (2010).

Table CO1.9.3 Percentage of employed and unemployed young people aged 18 - 29 years old by disability status, 2009¹

	Employed			Unemployed		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Austria	54.1	52.6	53.9	6.7	10.3	7.1
Belgium	46.6	36.0	45.8	8.0	18.6	8.8
Canada ¹	65.7	54.4	64.3	5.2	9.3	5.7
Czech Republic	49.4	39.0	48.7	7.3	10.0	7.5
Denmark	48.9	44.4	48.1	4.9	13.6	6.5
Estonia	46.0	51.7	46.5	11.7	7.7	11.3
Finland	56.0	55.4	55.9	8.2	9.4	8.4
France	51.2	44.7	50.8	10.5	12.1	10.6
Germany	51.7	46.6	51.0	5.7	15.3	7.0
Hungary	40.2	20.7	39.2	9.0	15.8	9.3
Iceland	53.1	34.5	51.2	4.3	13.7	5.3
Ireland	46.5	25.6	44.7	15.9	12.9	15.6
Italy	39.9	37.3	39.8	15.0	16.4	15.1
Latvia	45.8	31.0	44.4	19.9	27.2	20.6
Luxembourg	50.7	52.4	50.9	8.7	6.2	8.6
Netherlands	58.7	45.7	56.8	2.9	3.5	3.0
Norway	56.2	37.6	54.6	4.4	11.9	5.1
Poland	50.1	29.9	48.9	8.1	8.9	8.1
Portugal	55.0	40.2	53.6	12.0	13.2	12.1
Slovak Republic	44.1	41.0	43.8	8.8	8.4	8.7
Slovenia	40.4	39.1	40.3	7.5	11.1	7.9
Spain	46.0	38.0	45.4	17.9	23.1	18.3
Sweden	55.7	29.0	53.8	9.2	19.1	9.9
United Kingdom	62.7	45.7	61.6	7.9	12.4	8.2
United States ¹	62.6	12.6	61.2	9.9	5.0	9.8

Notes: 1. Data refer to 2007 for Canada and 2010 for the United States

Source: OECD Secretariat estimates based on EUSILC (2009) for European countries and LIS for Canada (2007) and the United States (2010).

Table CO1.9.5 Poverty rates for households with children by disability status, 2009¹

	Poverty rates		
	Without a disabled member	With a disabled member	Total
	(%)	(%)	(%)
Austria	7.3	9.6	8.0
Belgium	11.7	8.7	11.3
Czech Republic	7.3	13.3	8.4
Denmark	6.5	9.7	6.8
Estonia	11.9	12.9	12.1
Finland	4.8	6.7	5.1
France	8.0	10.0	8.5
Germany	10.2	8.7	9.9
Hungary	8.8	9.2	8.9
Iceland	6.1	1.9	5.7
Ireland	12.2	8.7	11.7
Italy	15.5	17.1	15.9
Latvia	21.0	17.0	20.1
Luxembourg	13.2	14.4	13.4
Netherlands	6.1	7.2	6.3
Norway	7.0	5.2	6.9
Poland	14.1	16.1	14.5
Portugal	13.2	25.1	16.7
Slovak Republic	10.1	10.2	10.1
Slovenia	6.1	12.8	7.2
Spain	17.4	18.9	17.7
Sweden	8.0	5.4	7.8
United Kingdom	13.0	9.5	12.5
United States ¹	19.4	30.6	20.0

Source: OECD Secretariat estimates based on EUSILC (2009) for European countries and LIS for the United States (2010).

Other relevant indicators: CX3.1 Special Educational Needs (SEN); PF1.3 Family cash benefits; CO2.2 Child poverty rates; CO3.5 Young people not in education or employment.

Comparability and data issues

This indicator provides an overview of disability rates across OECD countries but cross-country comparisons are limited because each country uses a specific definition and method for collecting these data. Many countries define disability as restriction or impairment which restricts everyday activities with duration of at least six months. Furthermore, the severity levels also differ markedly from country to country. In terms of instrument for data collection, people tend to report higher rates when asked using detailed questionnaires than when asked using a census form. WHO (2011) discusses the difference in prevalence rates in Ireland using two different methods of data collection. While estimates from the census

reported a disability rate of 9%, estimates from the National Disability Survey (2006), which used a more detailed questionnaire, reported a rate of 18%.

Some international surveys collecting cross-national information on disability are presented below. These surveys, however, were not used here as they do not collect information on children. HBSC data, on the other hand, does collect information of children aged 11 to 15, but it is still not available.

Survey	Year	Age range	Question on disability
EQLS	2007	15+	Any chronic physical or mental health problem, illness or disability?
ESPAD	2007	15 to 16	Last week, how often? Lost appetite; difficulty concentrating; felt depressed; pressurised; sad; couldn't do work
ESS	2008	15+	Do you have long-standing illness or disability?
HBSC	2009	11,13,15	Chronic illness diagnosed by a doctor and a chronic disease affecting school participation.

Self-reported data on limitation of usual activities are drawn from EUSILC 2009. This question was asked of individuals over 14 years old and measures long-standing limitation due to health-related problems. Persons with a disability are those who reported either being “strongly limited” or “limited” in their activities (Tables CO1.9.3 - CO1.9.5). Information of the following countries was not included here due to small sample sizes: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Lithuania and Malta.

Tables CO1.9.3 - CO1.9.5 also used data drawn from the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS), a data archive that collects detailed information on income and its components from a large number of countries (<http://www.lisdatacenter.org>). The national surveys harmonised by LIS for Canada and the United States and used here refer to the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (2007) and the Current Population Survey (2010). The LIS collects information on disability of persons over 14 years old. However, the definition of disability may vary across countries. The Canadian survey defined disability as those persons limited in their daily activities. By contrast, the United States, identifies persons with disabilities if they have a health condition that causes serious difficulties in carrying out their daily activities. Prevalence rates were not presented as most likely these are not comparable.

The sources used for constructing Table CO1.9.6 included the OECD Tax and Benefits country notes and the following governments' websites: Australia (<http://www.humanservices.gov.au/>); Austria (<http://www.dieebenshilfe.at/>); Denmark (<http://english.sm.dk/social-issues/disabled/services/>); Estonia (<http://www.ensib.ee/>); Finland (<http://www.kela.fi/>); France (<http://vosdroits.service-public.fr/>); Hungary (<http://www.allamkincstar.gov.hu/>); Iceland (<http://www.reykjavik.is/>); Ireland (http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/social_welfare/social_welfare_payments/carers/carers_allowance.html); Netherlands (<http://www.svb.nl/int/en/tog/index.jsp>); Luxembourg (<http://www.mfi.public.lu/>); New Zealand (<http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/>); Portugal (<http://www2.seg-social.pt/>); United Kingdom (<http://www.child-disability.co.uk/>) and the United States (<http://www.ssa.gov/>).

Sources and further reading: OECD (2010), Help Wanted; WHO (2011), World report on disability; UNICEF (2007), Promoting the Rights of Children with Disabilities; Jones, L. (2012) "Prevalence and risk of violence against children with disabilities: a systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies", The Lancet, Vol.380, Issue 9845, pp. 899-907. United Nations (1989), United Nations Convention on the Rights of The Child, www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm; United Nations (2008), United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=150. Sentenac, M. et al. (2012), "Peer victimization and subjective health among students reporting disability or chronic illness in 11 Western countries", European Journal of Public Health.

Table CO1.9.6 Family Cash Benefits for Children with a Chronic Illness or Disability

Country	Programme	Description	Maximum benefit	Upper age limit for children	Criteria	Income-tested	Observations
			National currency				
Australia	Child Disability Assistance Payment	Annual payment to assist parents with costs of caring for a disabled child	AUD 1 000 per year for each child	16	Eligibility is subject to having been paid Carer Allowance for a child under 16 years for a period that includes 1 July. Eligibility is subject to providing constant daily care to a child with a severe disability or medical condition. Eligibility is subject to providing care for a person under 16 who has a disability that needs additional care on a daily basis. Eligibility for families with children is subject to receiving Carer Allowance or Carer Payment.	Yes	Residential criteria also apply. The amount of the allowance changes according to family status with single parents receiving AUD 712 and couple parents AUD 536.70 (each) or AUD 1073.4 (combined). Payment depends on child's care needs. It is either a fortnightly payment of AUD 114 and a Health Care Card or a Health Care Card only. The Health Care card provides financial support to costs of prescribed medicines. It can be paid in addition to other income support payments.
	Carer Payment	Financial support payment for parents who are unable to work because they provide full-time care to a child with a severe disability or medical condition.	AUD 1073.4 per fortnight for a couple living together	16		Yes	
	Carer Allowance	A supplementary payment for parents or carers who provide additional daily care to a dependent child under 16 who has a disability or medical condition.	AUD 114 per fortnight plus a health card.	16		No	
	Carer Supplement	Annual payment to assist carers with costs of caring for a person with a disability or medical condition.	AUD 600 per year per child	16		No	
Austria	Family benefits - additional support	Families with a dependent disabled child are entitled to additional monthly financial support	EUR 138.30 per month	19 (based on family benefits limit)	Eligibility is subject to a medical certificate by the Federal Social Office.	No	.considerable disability amounts to EUR 138.30
Belgium	Child Benefit - additional support	A supplementary monthly allowance is paid to parents with a child with a disability or disorder.	EUR 507.3 per month; plus a possible supplement of up to EUR 456.8 per month	21	Eligibility is subject to an evaluation of the Directorate General of Disabled Persons.	No	The allowance ranges from EUR 76.1 to EUR 507.3 per month depending on the severity of the disability or disorder. On top of this, a supplementary allowance is paid if the child is at least two-thirds disabled according to the evaluation system. this allowances ranges from EUR 390.4 to EUR 456.8. At age 21, the benefit is transferred to the disabled person in the form of an income replacement benefit. An additional payment, integration allowance, is also transferred at age 21 if independence is restricted.
Canada	Child Disability Benefit	A monthly tax-free benefit for families who care for a child eligible for disability benefits.	CAD 2 575 per year (CAD 214.58 per month)	18	Eligibility is subject to the certification of a qualified practitioner who examines whether the child has a severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental functions. The Canada Revenue Agency approves the form (Disability Tax Credit Certificate).	Yes	

OECD Family database www.oecd.org/social/family/database
 OECD - Social Policy Division - Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs

Country	Programme	Description	Maximum benefit	Upper age limit for children	Criteria	Income-tested	Observations
			National currency				
Chile	Ayudas Técnicas Protección Infancia	Financial support to disabled children to cover the costs linked to children's disability	CLP 804.57 per year	18	Children have to be incorporated into "Chile Crece contigo"	yes	Children under 6 are given priority for receiving this financial support
Czech Republic	Child allowance -extended	Families with dependent children receive an allowance to cover upbringing costs that can be extended due to disability.		26		yes	
	Carer allowance	Monthly allowance provided to persons with an unfavourable long-term health condition in need of another person's assistance and care.	CZK 12 000 per month in case of total dependence	18		no	The allowance varies according to the degree of dependence: slight-dependence 1 (CZK 3 000); medium-heavy dependence (CZK 5 000); heavy dependence (CZK 9 000); and total dependence (CZK 12 000).
Denmark	Financial support	Parents of disabled children are entitled to a financial support to cover the extra costs due to the child's or the young person's disability.			Typical extra costs include: food, medicine, transport, clothes, washing and personal hygiene, holidays		
	Carer allowance	A financial compensation paid to parents for loss of earnings while caring for a disabled child	varies			yes	Calculation of the subsidy will be based on the assumption that the family is to have the same amount at its disposal as it used to have before taking care of disabled child.
Estonia	Disabled child allowance	Monthly allowance paid to a child under age 16 to cover for additional expenses related to disability	EUR 80.6 per month for a child with a severe or profound disability (315% of the social benefit rate)	16	-		The value of the allowance varies according to the severity of the disability: moderate (EUR 69 per month) and severe and profound (EUR 80.6 per month). If a rehabilitation plan exists, the allowance covers the related activities.
Finland	Disability Allowance	Children with a long-term illness or injury can be paid a tax-free monthly allowance.	EUR 403.5 per month	16	The payment rate depends on a diagnosis and on the strain the illness imposes on the family.	No	Allowances are payable at three different rates: basic (EUR 89,2 per month), middle (EUR 208,09 per month) and highest (EUR 403,5 per month). The allowance can be paid for a specific period only or until the child reaches the age of 16. The length of payment depends on child's illness.

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Country	Programme	Description	Maximum benefit	Upper age limit for children	Criteria	Income-tested	Observations
			National currency				
France	Allocation d'éducation de l'enfant	A financial support to help parents with education and health expenses of a child with disability.	Basic amount of EUR 127.68 per month, which may increase with a supplement provided by the CDAPH.	20	Eligibility is subject to the decision of the Commission of Rights and Autonomy of People with Disabilities (CDAPH) who decides on allocation of the allowance, supplements, and duration of payment.		The value of the allowance may increase with a supplement provided by the CDAPH which varies according to a number of socio-economic characteristics and on caring expenses incurred due to the health of the child. The amount of the benefit varies according to several criteria including the working conditions of parents and child expenses. The benefit may last up to five years (except if disability worsens)
Germany	Family tax credit (Kindergeld)	Parents can claim a continued child benefit allowance (Kindergeld) for disabled children over the age of 25, if children are unable to care for themselves.		no age limit			
Hungary	Family allowance - additional support	Families with a child who is chronically ill or seriously disabled receive an increased allowance.	HUF 25 900 per child for single-parent families	18	Not specified	No	Single parents with severely ill or disabled child are entitled to higher amounts of benefits (HUF 25 900) compared with couple-parent families (HUF 23 300).
Iceland	Carer allowance	Parents with children with a disability or a long-term illness who are in need of continuous stay-at-home care are given a monthly benefit to support their expenses.	ISK 117 176 per month				Childcare benefits are provided until the age of 10 years of the child when child is severely ill or disabled.
Ireland	Incapacitated Child Tax Credit	A tax credit for parents with a child with a permanent disability.	EUR 3 300 (in 2012)	21	A doctor's certificate indicating the degree and extent of the incapacity is needed. The disability must have appeared before the child reached the age of 21 or while she/he was in full-time education.	no	
	Domiciliary Care Allowance	A monthly payment made to the parent or carer of a child with a severe disability	EUR 309.50 per month	16	Eligibility is subject to the Department's Medical Assessor evaluation. This assessment is based on the lack of function of body or mind which results in extra care and attention and not on the type of impairment or disease.	yes	The disability must need constant care and supervision. Children who are being cared for on a full time basis in residential homes or other institutions are not eligible for the allowance
	Child benefit -extended	Child benefit is extended from the age limit of 16 until the age of 18	EUR 130 per month (in 2013)	18		no	
	Carer's Allowance	Payment to people on low incomes providing full-time care to a person in need of support because of physical or learning disability or illness.	EUR 204 per week	18	The person being cared for must be in receipt of a Domiciliary Care Allowance.	income tested	Parents may receive an extra amount for a dependent child called an Increase for a Qualified Child (IQC) of EUR 29.80 per week.

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Italy	Invalidity allowance	Monthly financial support to parents with a disabled child		18	Eligibility is subject to certification of persistent difficulties in daily life, citizenship and residence in the country.	yes	
Japan	Special Child Dependent's Allowance	Monthly allowance to support parents with a disabled child	JPY 50 400 per month	19	Eligibility is subject to a medical disability certificate and the level of annual income of the child or person with obligation to take care of him/her.	yes	There are two levels of allowance depending on the severity of disability.
	Disabled Child Welfare Allowance	Monthly financial support to parents with a severely disabled child who requires intensive care	JPY 14 280 per month	19	Eligibility is subject to a medical certificate for severe disability that requires for constant care; the level of annual income of the child, or the person with obligation to take care of him/her; and the child has to be living at home.	yes	
Korea	Allowance for children with disabilities	This is a monthly allowance to support parents for the additional costs of raising children with disabilities.	KRW 200,000 per month	18	This allowance is available to registered children with disabilities who are beneficiaries of the Basic Livelihood Security System.	yes (based on income and property)	The allowance can vary between KRW 20,000- 200,000 per month.
	Support for the education costs of children with disabilities	Support primary, middle, or high school students with severe disabilities or whose parents are disabled with school fees and purchase of text books.	school fee (full amount) and up to KRW 49,500 per year for	18	This grant is available to children with severe disabilities (grade 1-3) enrolled in primary, middle, or high school, or to students whose parents are severely disabled.	yes	The yearly allowance for gschool fee(full amount) auxilliary text books (KRW 36,000 per year, primary and middle school), textbook (KRW 119,000 per year,highschool)
	Support for the child care costs of children with disabilities	This monthly allowance aims at supporting families with disabled children for childcare costs.	KRW 200,000 per month	5	Children with disabilities aged less than 6 who do not go to child care centers.	no	

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Netherlands	TOG care allowance	Parents with a child living at home who is seriously ill or handicapped are entitled to a quarterly allowance to help cover additional costs.	EUR 215.80 per quarter.	18	Eligibility is subject to an AWBZ indication and/or a ZG certificate (for a sensory handicap), issued by the Care Assessment Centre or the Youth Care Agency, which determines whether the child needs extensive care (10 hours of care or more per week) because of an illness or disability. The age of the child is between 3 and 18 years old. Parents live and work in the Netherlands.	no	Furthermore, those children in health care institutions benefit reduced fees for health care and meals, and those children in other institutions and others using day care also benefit reduced fees for meals.
	Personal Budget	Parents spending a considerable amount of time caring for a disabled child over a long period are entitled to a sum of money that can be used to purchase support.		18	Parents spending a considerable amount of time caring for a disabled child over a long period	no	
	Dutch child benefit	Parents with a disabled child who cannot live at home because of her/his illness or disability are entitled to a child benefit at twice the basic rate.		16	Parents need to contribute with more than EUR 1 103 per quarter towards child support	no	Since 2010, the Ministry has been convening expert meetings in view of developing comprehensive disability welfare policies
Luxembourg	Allowance for children with disabilities	An additional allowance for children with disabilities may be granted to children affected by a disability to cover additional costs resulting from her/his disability.		18	Eligibility is subject to a doctor certifying that the child's physical or mental capacity is diminished by at least 50%.		The allowance may continue beyond age 18 if child's disability or personal income is lower than the guaranteed minimum wage.
New Zealand	Child Disability Allowance	A fortnightly tax-free payment made to the main carer of a child or young person with a serious disability.	NZD 45.34 per week	18	The child has to be assessed as needing constant care and attention for at least 12 months because of a serious disability. Also, the main care giver and the child should normally live in New Zealand.	no	
Norway	Nursing allowance	An allowance paid to carers to compensate for loss of earned income resulting from caring for a child who is ill.		18	Parents or carers of a child under 12 years of age who requires continuous supervision and nursing by one of the parents are entitled to a nursing allowance. If, however, the child is chronically ill or disabled, this right applies until the child reaches 18.	no	The nursing allowance is calculated as if the parents themselves were ill.
	Attendance allowance	An allowance paid to permanent carers of child with a disability or illness.		18			

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Poland	Family benefits	Family benefits are extended from age 18 until 24 if a child is disabled and still in education.		24		yes	Supplementary allowances vary according to children's age and family structure with benefits being highest for sole-parent families.
	Supplementary allowances	Parents with a child with a disability may receive supplementary monthly allowances	PLN 250 per child per month for sole-parent families	24		yes	
Portugal	Supplement to Family Benefit for Handicapped Children and Young Persons	A supplement to Family Benefit is paid to families with disabled children	EUR 139.15 per month for sole-parent families	24	The disabled person had to attend or live in a specialised rehabilitation institution and need individual pedagogic or therapeutic care.	Income relative to minimum wage	The supplement increases with age from EUR 59.48 (from 0 to 14 years) up to EUR 115.96 (from 18 up to 24 years). The supplement is higher for disabled children in sole-parent families (20% higher).
	Care allowance	A financial flat-rate support granted to disabled children or young persons in need of care of a third person.	EUR 88.37 per month	24	Disabled persons entitled either to the supplement to family benefits or the lifelong monthly benefit and who are in need of care of a third person for at least 6 hours per day.	Income relative to minimum wage	
Slovenia	Special Child Care Allowance for a Child in Need of Special Care	Families with disabled children receive an additional monthly free-tax allowance.	EUR 201.21 per month for children with severe disability.	18 or 26 years if in education	Eligibility is subject to a medical assessment. The disabled child has to be a Slovenian citizen and has to have a permanent residency.	no	The value of the allowance varies according to the severity of the disability.
Spain	Family benefits - additional supp	Family benefits are increased and the age limit is extended if a child is disabled to a degree of at least 65%	EUR 83.33 per month	no age limit	Eligibility is subject to the child being disabled to a degree of at least 65% using the BAREMA method.	no	Special supplements increase with degree of disability
Sweden	Childcare allowance [Vårdbidrag]	A monthly allowance available to parents with a disabled child to provide financial assistance.	SEK 8 917 per month	19	The disabled or sick child needs special supervision and care for at least six months or if expenses related to his/her disability or illness are high.	no	The amount varies according to child's needs: full allowance (SEK 8 917 per month), three-quarter, half or a quarter of allowance (SEK 229 per month).
	Attendance allowance	A financial support provided to disabled persons in need of personal assistance	SEK 282 per hour (in 2010).	no age limit	Persons with a severe long-term disability who need personal assistance of more than 20 hours a week to cope with daily-life activities.	no	

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United Kingdom	Disability Living Allowance (DLA)	A weekly allowance paid to parents/guardians with children who have a disability or an illness	GBP 131.5 per week	16	Disabled persons may need a medical certificate to determine the extent of her/his needs. Eligibility is subject to having difficulties with daily life activities for 6 months; or tho having a progressive fatal disease.	no	DLA is divided into two benefits: 1) Help with Personal Care, and 2) Help with getting around outdoors. The value of the allowance depends on children's need, ranging between GBP 20.55 to GBP 131.5 per week. A child may be entitled to one or both benefits depending on her/his needs. After the age of 16, it is paid to the child. However from April 2013, a new benefit called Personal Independence Payment will replace DLA for disabled people aged 16 to 64.
	Carer's allowance	A financial weekly support for people who are looking after a sick or disabled person.	GBP 58.45 per week	none	Carer does not have to be related to, or live with, the person who is being care for. She/he needs to be aged 16 or over and spend at least 35 hours a week caring for someone. The child being cared for must get a Disability Living Allowance in the middle or highest care rate.	yes	
United States	SSI Payment Benefits for Children with Disability	Financial support to low-income families with a child with disability	varies across states	no age limit	Eligibility is subject to meeting the Social Security's definition of disability. The child needs to have "marked and severe functional limitations" for at least 12 continuous months.	yes	SSI payments differ across states. Parents receive payments when disabled child is under 18, after this age it is the disabled person who receives it.