

Mpala, Ke Botlhokwa

PROFILE OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY IN BOTSWANA

(Statistics Botswana)

By Mavis Mogami and Goaletsa Kesetse



Republic of Botswana



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Contents

- Introduction
- Objectives
- Definitions and Concepts
- Methodology
- Findings and Discussions
- Policy Implication
- Conclusions and Recommendations

Introduction

Persons with disability with disabilities have always experienced barriers in accessing education, sustaining employment as well as engaging in public life.

- In the past persons with disabilities were not recognized and were discriminated-a global problem
- Botswana-little literature suggest that there was exclusion, discrimination, and stigmatization, lack of accessibility to education and employment opportunities
- policies, programs and frameworks have been developed particularly to recognize and protect the rights and dignity of the persons with disabilities
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
- is an international treaty that's specific to people with disabilities.
- It was adopted by the United Nations in 2006 and Botswana signed and ratified in 2021.
- This convention articulates and asserts the application of disability rights instruments to PWDs.
- By signing the convention countries are expected to review all existing legislation, policies and programmes and make sure that they align their policies with the UN-CRPD framework.

Introduction

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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which prioritizes the principles of equality and non-discrimination

- **with a commitment to “leave no one behind” and “reach those furthest behind first”.**
- **special attention should be given to marginalized groups, which include people with disabilities**
- **It drives for a cross-cutting commitment by countries to disaggregate data by disability and other population subgroups**
- **This is key in providing important insights about the extent to which PWDs and other subgroups are**
 - ✓ included in the society.
 - ✓ Benefit from government programs
 - ✓ Are included in the workforce

Introduction

The Constitution of Botswana does not have any specific a specific legislation on disability, however we have

- The 1996 National Policy on Care for People with Disabilities [NPCPD]),
 - that recognizes the importance of disability rights and dignity for all individuals
 - focuses on accessibility to education, health facilities and inclusion in the employment sector and other government programs.
 - recommended a multi-sectoral responsibilities to implement the policy and
- This gave birth to establishment of an office for people with disabilities within the Office of the President, The National Disability Coordinating Office in 2010
 - ✓ to coordinate disability-related policies and initiatives, which has proven to show a slow progress over the years.

Objectives

- To provide a profile of persons with disabilities in Botswana from PHC 2022 data
- Specific objectives

To profile persons with disabilities by

- ✓ demographic and social characteristics,
- ✓ educational characteristics
- ✓ economic characteristics and access to ICT
- ✓ present a comparison between PWD's and their counterparts without disability

Definitions and Concepts

Disability

- Within the specific context of Botswana, disability is understood in two ways. First, the word ‘disability’ (bogole) is used to refer to the individual’s impairment, which is acknowledged as part of their identity. In that context the person is referred to as ‘a person with disability’ or, in vernacular, ‘mona le bogole’. The use of the term ‘disability’ or ‘bogole’ in this context is acceptable (Mmatli, 2005).
- The UNCRPD which recognizes that ‘disability is an evolving concept’ (UNCRPD, 2006, p. 1), defines persons with disabilities as 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’ (UNCRPD, 2006, p. 4).

The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)

- According to the ICF, disability appears as “an umbrella” of the following three components (WHO, 2002):
- **Body function and structure** indicates the presence of impairment, meaning “any loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological, or anatomical structure or function”. Examples of impairments include the loss of sight in an eye or paralysis of a limb
- **Activity limitations** are difficulties performing an activity in the way or within the range considered normal for a human being. It describes a functional limitation caused by impairments.

Disability- 2011 vs 2022

- SB adopted IWG set of questions for PHC 2022

2011 PHC	2022 PHC
1.Partial sighted	1 Seeing
2.Total blindness	2 Hearing
3.Partial Hearing	3 Communicating
4.Deafnes	4 Walking
5.Partial speech impairment	5 Remembering
6.Inability to speak	6 Selfcare
7.Inability to use one leg	Response
8.Inability to use two legs	1 No Difficult
9.Inability to use one arm	2 Some difficult
10.Inability to use two arms	3 A lot of difficult
11. Inability to use the whole body	4 Cannot do it all
12.Intellectual impairment	
13.Mental Health Disorder	
14.Missing one leg	
15.Missing two legs	
16.Missing one arm	
17.Missing two arms	

Literature Review

- Department of Law at the University of Botswana The study titled “Political participation of persons with disabilities in Botswana”
 - goal of this study was to examine the voting procedures and facilities available for political participation of persons with disabilities in Botswana.
 - major findings were that PWD’s are excluded from political and public life as The Constitution of Botswana and the Laws, especially the Electoral Act of 1968 and its amendments do not have any specific provisions directly aimed at protecting and promoting the rights of PWDs in general and their right to political participation.
- Study to examine the experiences of people with disabilities in exercising disability rights in Botswana by Mukhopadhyay and E. Moswela
 - ✓ One of the findings was that awareness on disability rights among PWDs, care-givers and the general public was generally low

Methodology

- The data used for this report is from the 2022 Population and Housing Census conducted by Statistics Botswana
- The Washington Group Short Set questions on function tool collect information on six types of difficulties thus seeing, hearing, communicating, walking, remembering and self-care for people aged 5 years and above. Each question has four responses namely No difficulties, some difficulties, A lot of difficulty and cannot do it all.
- disability variable was created by combining these two responses, “**lot of difficulty**” and “**Cannot do at all**” as guided by Washington Group on Disability Statistics.

Findings and Discussions

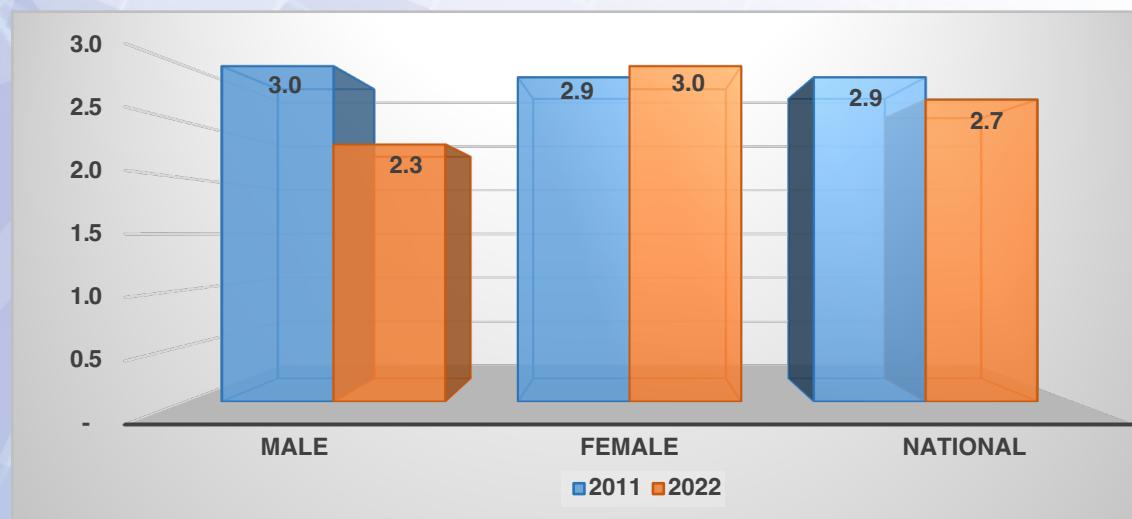
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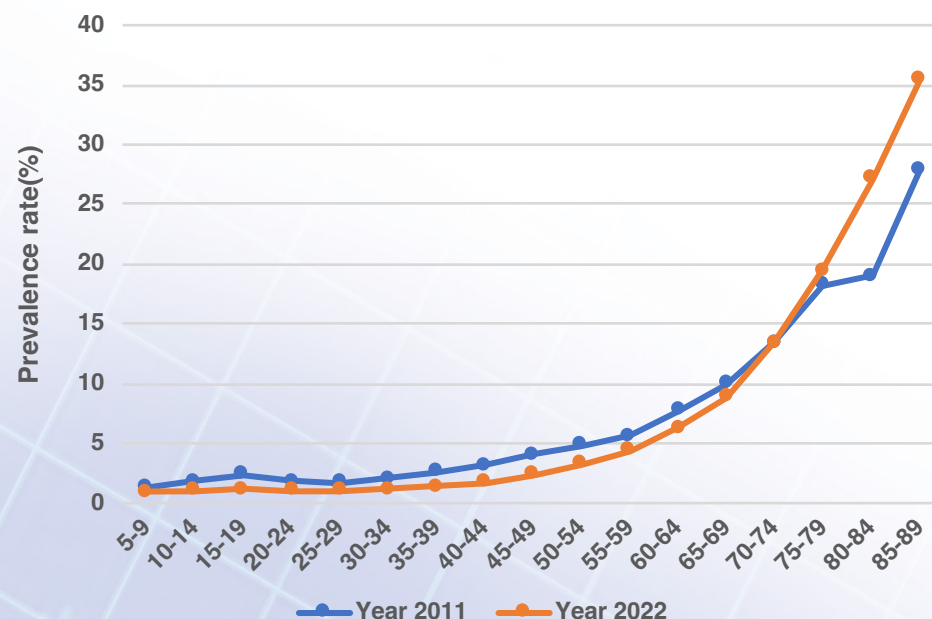
Disability Prevalence

- National disability prevalence rate (2022) was **2.7 percent** as compared to **2.9** in 2011
- Prevalence rate for females increased from **2.9 percent** in 2011 **PHC** to **3.0 percent** 2022 **PHC**
- Prevalence rate for males the rate decreased from **3.0 percent** to **2.33 percent** for 2011 **PHC** to 2022.
- **55 347 PWDs** compared to **59,103 in 2011 PHC**



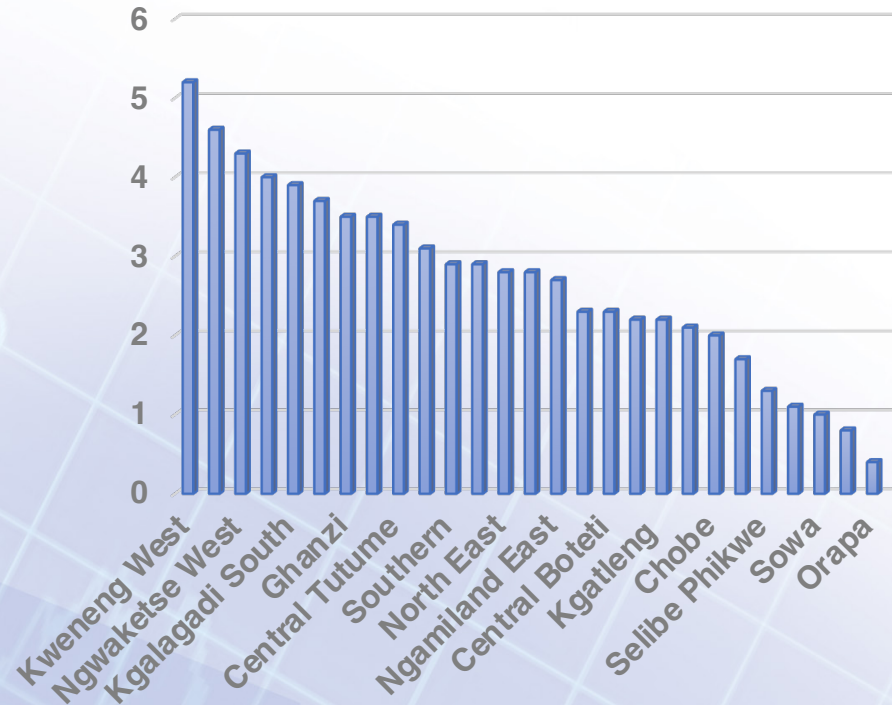
Disability prevalence by age

- shows that the disability prevalence rate increases with age
- disability prevalence is around **1.0% for persons aged 0-34 years**
- Increases sharply at age group **55-59 to 4.5 percent**
- **Highest at age group 85+ (40.1%)**



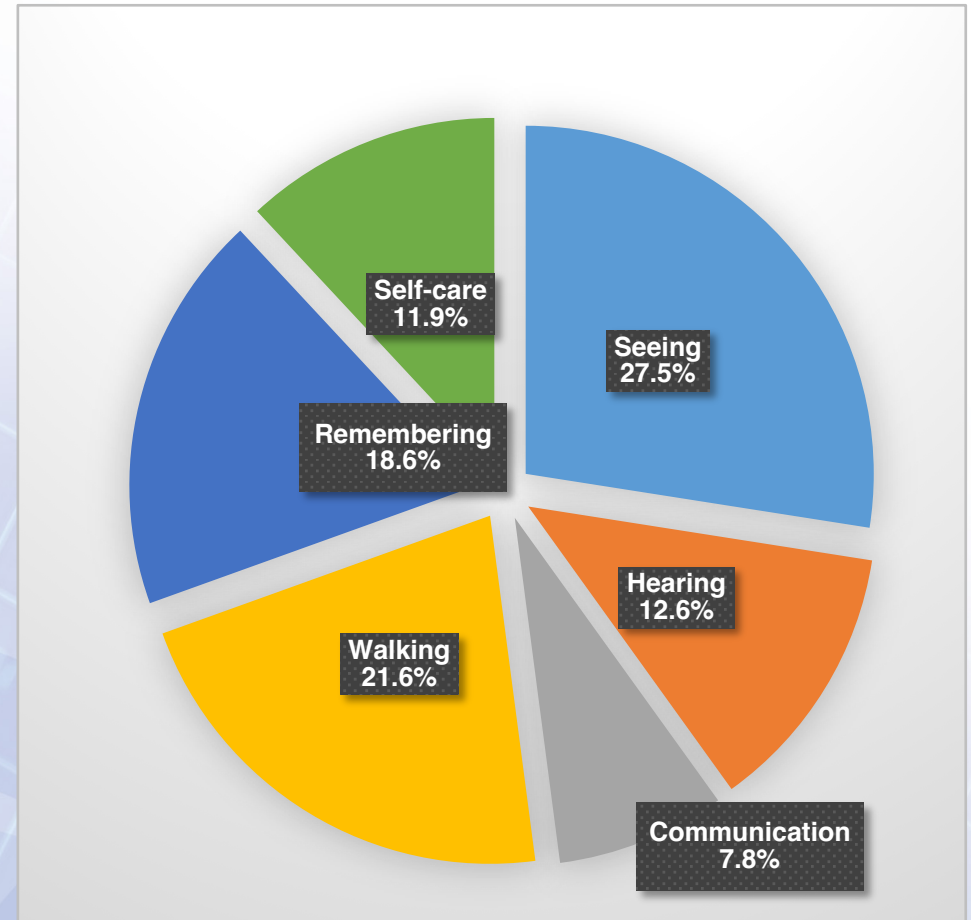
District Disability Prevalence

- **Kweneng West district has the highest prevalence (5.2%)** followed by **Barolong** with **4.6%** and **Ngwaketse west** with **4.3%**
- The lowest is **Orapa** with **0.4%**
- **All cities and town prevalence rate is less than the national rate (2.7%)**

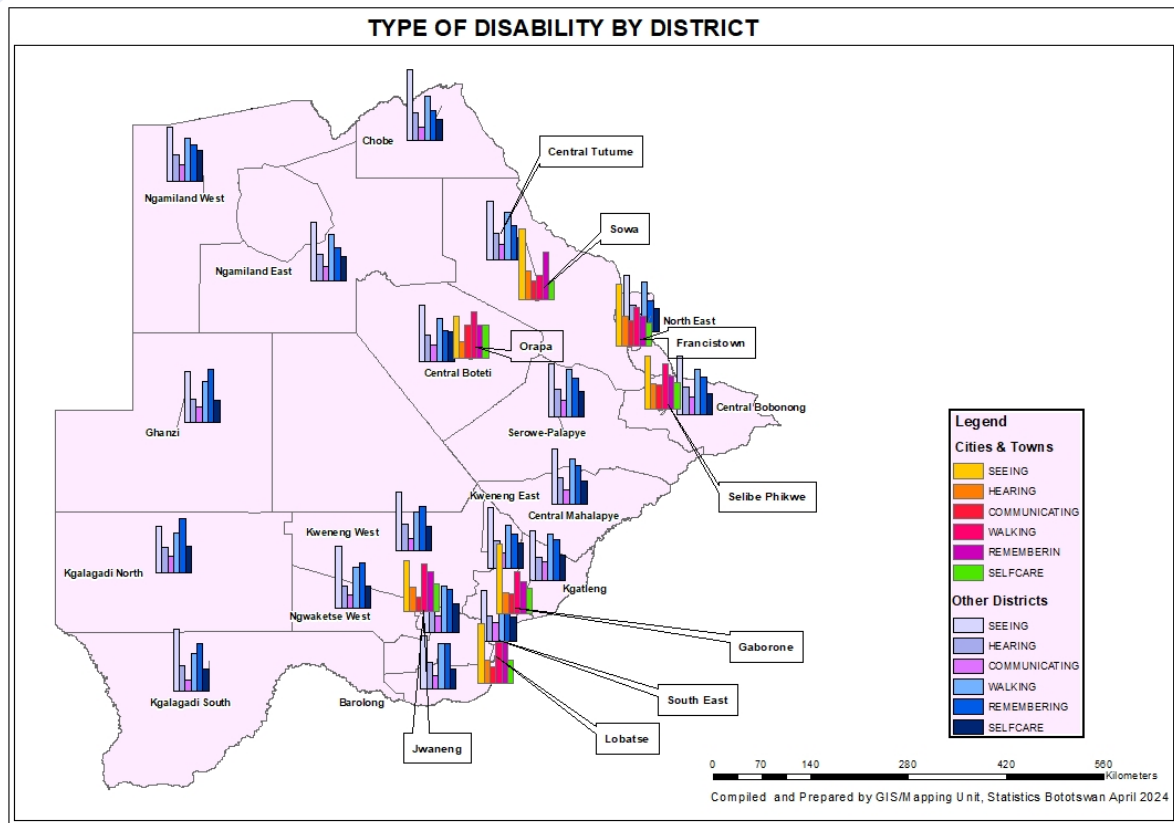


Percentage Distribution of PWD's by type of disability

- Most common type is Difficulty in seeing **(27.5%)**
- Followed by Difficulty in Walking **(21.6%)**
- Followed by Difficulty in Remembering **(18.6%)**
- Least being Difficult in Communication **(7.8%)**



Type of disability by district



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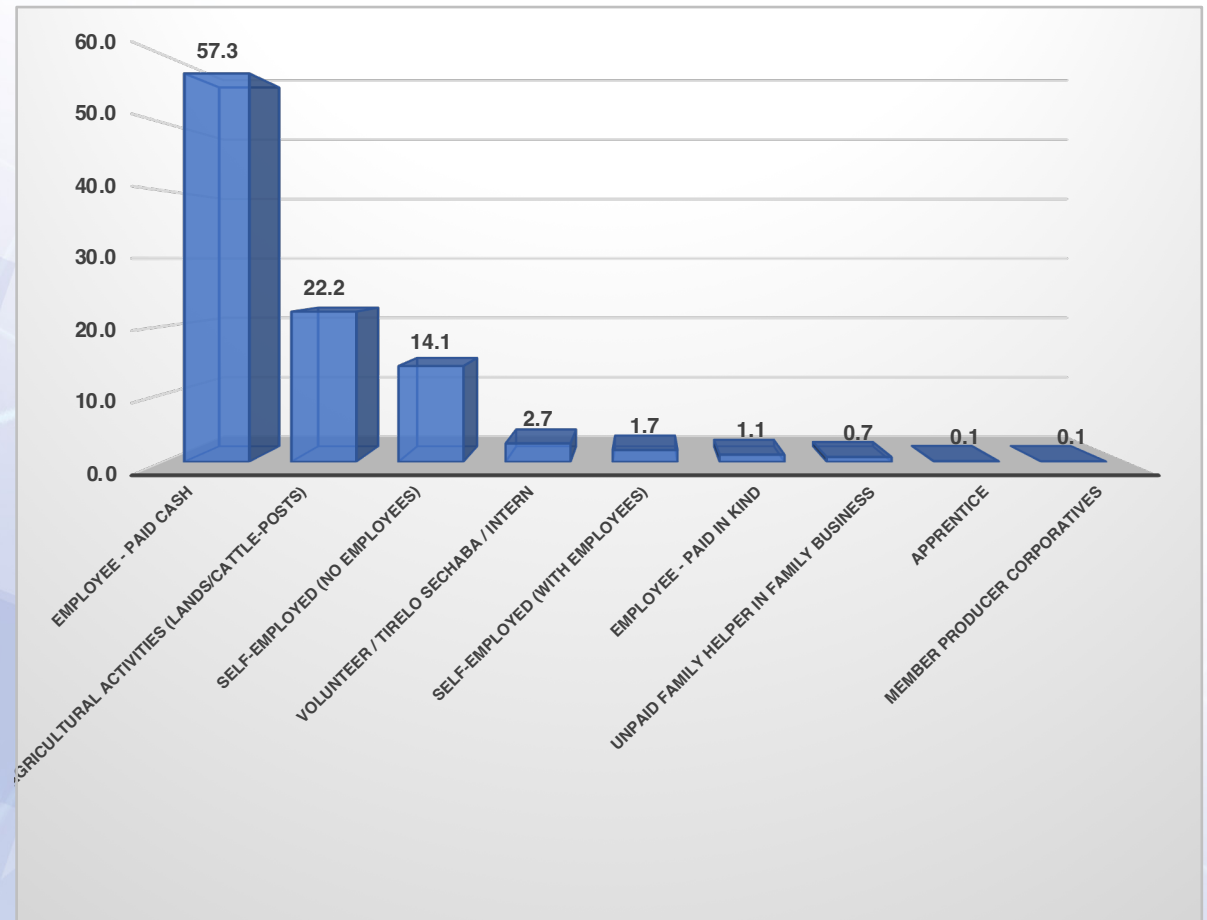
Disability status by School Attendance

- Only 9 percent of PWDs are still at school and the comparative figure for those without disability is **28.6 percent**.
- Those who completed school **40.9 percent** and **54.8 percent** for PWDs and those without disabilities respectively
- discounted or never went to school, which is exactly **50 percent**. The comparative figure for people without disability is 12.2 percent.

		Without Disability					With Disability				
Type of Locality	Sex	School attendance					School attendance				
		Still at school	Completed school	Discontinued	Never attended	Not Stated	Still at school	Completed school	Discontinued	Never attended	Not Stated
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Town	Male	28.3	63.1	2.3	1.8	4.5	19.8	56.2	7.1	16.9	0.0
	Female	28.1	63.3	2.5	1.6	4.5	13.2	63.7	8.9	14.1	0.0
Urban-Village	Male	30.6	56.1	4.1	5.1	4.1	13.5	43.2	10.0	33.3	0.0
	Female	28.5	58.7	4.4	4.6	3.9	7.4	49.7	12.9	30.0	0.0
Rural	Male	27.1	44.6	11.2	12.3	4.8	9.1	28.9	14.0	48.1	0.0
	Female	28.2	47.1	9.5	10.9	4.2	5.3	33.4	14.6	46.7	0.0
Total		28.6	54.8	5.8	6.4	4.3	9.0	40.9	12.6	37.4	0.0
Total		38.9	24.8	2.8	9.4	4.3	8.0	40.8	13.9	31.4	0.0
	Female	38.3	43.1	8.2	10.8	4.3	2.3	33.4	14.9	49.3	0.0
	Male	33.1	44.9	11.3	13.3	4.8	8.1	38.8	14.0	48.1	0.0

Disability by current Economic Activity

- Most **(57.3%)** of PWD's are employees paid cash
- Followed by those working at own agricultural activities
- **14.1%** self employed with no employees
- **2.7%** tirelo sechaba



ICT Use

- high proportion (**62.7%**) of persons with disability use Mobile phones, comparable to **77.4%** of persons without disability who use mobile phones.
- **32.3%** of persons without disability use computer compared to **10.2%** of those with disability
- **58.7%** of persons without disability use computer compared to **24.4%** of those with disability

Device use	Usage status	Without Disability	With Disability	Total Population
<i>Mobile phone</i>				
	Yes	77.4	62.7	77.0
	No	22.6	37.3	23.0
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Computer</i>				
	Yes	32.3	10.2	0.3
	No	67.7	89.8	0.7
	Total	100.0	100.0	1.0
<i>Internet</i>				
	Yes	58.7	24.4	57.9
	No	41.3	75.6	42.1
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Policy implications

A profile of people with disability is key in providing a platform for policy and program formulation and for government to design targeted interventions for different population subgroups. These statistics are also important for monitoring progress in meeting the goal of leaving no one behind established under SDGs.

The needs of persons PWDs require the understanding of their:

- ☐ **disability prevalence**
 - ☐ **numbers,**
 - ☐ **types of disabilities and location**
 - ☐ **Demographic, social, economic characteristics**
- ✓ This helps in making informed decisions for public health programs to be addressed
 - ✓ medical, policy and public health planning
 - ✓ offering of the services and support the PWDs may need
 - ✓ developing a complete picture of disability and functioning and
 - ✓ supporting evidence of socioeconomic outcomes for PWDs

Policy implications

- slight decrease in the national prevalence rate from 2.9 percent to 2.7 percent. This reduction implies that could have some intervention by government that led to this decrease. Programs and interventions that could have led to this reduction must be identified and intensified
- Prevalence rate for females have increased while it decreased for males, between 2011 and 2022. Policy makers should reflect on the measures that could have specifically caused this reduction to have the same applied to the females with disabilities and close the disparity gap as highlighted by in Target 10.2 of the SDG's that states; by 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.
- prevalence rates and types of disability by geographical location can help government with efficient resource allocation and mobilization, as observed prevalence rate is high in Kweneng West with 5.2%, 2011 it was high in Ghantsi 4.4%
- The extent to which the education system caters for people with disabilities is critical in affording equal access to education for all, including people with disabilities. These results indicate that half of the people with disabilities discontinue or never attend school.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The 2022 Botswana Population and Housing Census adopted Washington Group Short Set on functioning the first time, Profiling of persons with disability was based on several indicators:

- ✓ **Prevalence rate has slightly decreased from 2.9 to 2.7 between 2011 and 2022**
- ✓ **The number of Persons with disability were 55,347 of which 32,251 were females and 23,096 were males**
- ✓ **There were 85,085 cases of disability**
- ✓ **Disability prevalence is higher in females than males**
- ✓ **The most common disability is difficulty in seeing with 27.5 percent**
- ✓ **The results indicate that the disability prevalence increases with age, with elderly persons with representing 47.5percent cases of disability, youth comprising 38.5percent, adults at 23.9percent whereas children with disability were 9.5percent of the population with disability.**

Conclusions and Recommendations

- ✓ Prevalence rate is higher in rural areas than urban areas.
- ✓ The majority of population with disabilities have acknowledged their existence through birth registration And 97.3percent of those eligible for national identity registration have registered,
- ✓ More than of PWDs discontinued or never went to school

Recommendations

- It is important to breakdown the subgroups that have higher prevalence of disability
 - This helps in establishment of key areas that require programmatic inventions for improving the quality of life for PWDs

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Further in-depth analysis on socio-economic characteristics eg occupation and industry etc
- Disability study to answer:
 - **access all public buildings and transport systems.**
 - **access health facilities and health literacy materials, thus create**
 - **cast votes and participate in the electoral process, as well as access information on elections.**
 - **Trained to gain meaningful and decent employment and retain their employment status.**