



BAHAMAS NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

BELLAGIO PLAZA
MADEIRA STREET, PALMDALE
P.O. BOX N-3904 NASSAU, BAHAMAS
TELEPHONE NO: (242) 604-4000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2022 Census Disability Report Reveals More Than One in Ten Individuals Aged 5 and Older Living with a Disability

Nassau, The Bahamas – June 17, 2026 – The Bahamas National Statistical Institute (BNSI) announces the third release of the 2022 Census of Population and Housing: *Disability Report*, which provides detailed insight into the demographic, social, educational, and housing characteristics of persons with disabilities in The Bahamas.

The report reveals that more than one in ten individuals aged five years and older are living with a disability and marks an important milestone for The Bahamas, which will be the only country in the Caribbean contributing disability data to the [Washington Group on Disability Statistics](#) during the 2020 Census Round.

The findings provide policymakers, researchers, service providers, and the public with valuable data to better understand the characteristics and living conditions of persons with disabilities throughout The Bahamas.

Report Coverage

Tabulated data for all variables are provided for All Bahamas, New Providence, Grand Bahama, and Abaco by age, sex, marital status, educational characteristics, and total annual household income. The publication also examines data pertaining to private dwellings, households, head of households, dwelling structure, and housing characteristics among persons with disabilities. Due to the relatively small number of persons with disabilities residing in the Family Islands, data for these islands have been aggregated and are not presented separately due to confidentiality considerations.

Methodology and International Standards

The report also represents an important milestone for The Bahamas' National Statistical Institute. The disability findings from the 2022 Census of Population and Housing will be shared internationally through the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, with The Bahamas becoming the only Caribbean nation contributing disability data during the 2020 Census Round. This achievement reflects BNSI's continued commitment to strengthening disability statistics and supporting international monitoring, reporting, and comparability.

Since 2010, when the Institute released its first Disability Report, BNSI has remained committed to ensuring that Census reporting reflects the diversity of our communities and that all segments of the population are represented and visible within the national data landscape.



The Bahamas' 2022 Census questionnaire incorporated the Washington Group's Short Set (WG-SS) of questions in an effort to better assess persons with disabilities nationally, support international comparability, and monitor progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda). The Washington Group on Disability Statistics is a United Nations Statistical Commission established in 2001. Its mission is to improve the quality, availability, and international comparability of disability data.

The Disability Statistics Short Set (WG-SS) of questions consists of six core functional domains used internationally to measure disability: seeing, hearing, walking or climbing stairs, remembering or concentrating, self-care, and communicating. For each domain, respondents participating in the 2022 Census selected from four response categories: no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or cannot do at all. For this national report, individuals who reported some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or cannot do at all in at least one of the six domains were classified as persons with disabilities.

Key Findings

According to the 2022 Census, a total of 38,551 persons with disabilities were recorded in The Bahamas, representing 10.3 percent of the population aged 5 years and older. Of this total, females accounted for 57.1 percent of the disabled population, while males represented 42.9 percent.

New Providence recorded the largest number of persons 5 years and over with disabilities, accounting for 26,712 individuals or 69.3 percent of the national total. However, the islands with the highest proportion of persons with disabilities relative to their population sizes were Ragged Island (32.7%), Inagua (28%), and Mayaguana (27.8%). This is likely influenced by the relatively older age structure of these islands, which have a higher proportion of residents aged 50 years and older.

An examination of disability by functional domain revealed that seeing disability was the most commonly reported disability, followed by walking difficulties and challenges related to remembering and concentrating. Additionally, the findings indicated that the prevalence and severity of disabilities generally increased with age across all disability categories.

A further examination of the educational characteristics revealed that at the time of the Census, among persons with disabilities aged 5 years and older, 3,685 (9.6%) persons were enrolled in school full-time, while the majority were not enrolled in an educational institution. Secondary education was identified as the most commonly reported level of educational attainment among persons with disabilities aged 15 years and older.

An interesting finding from the 2022 Census revealed that 74 persons, or 15.1 percent of individuals who reported being unable to speak at all, were of school age between 5 and 17 years old. This finding underscores the importance of continued attention to inclusive education, accessibility, and support services for children with communication-related disabilities within The Bahamas.



As The Bahamas continues to strengthen its national statistical system, BNSI remains committed to ensuring that official statistics reflect the experiences and conditions of all segments of the population through transparent, inclusive, and internationally recognized statistical practices. The release of the 2022 Census of Population and Housing: *Disability Report* represents an important step in strengthening the availability of data related to persons with disabilities within The Bahamas and improving understanding of the demographic and social characteristics of this population.

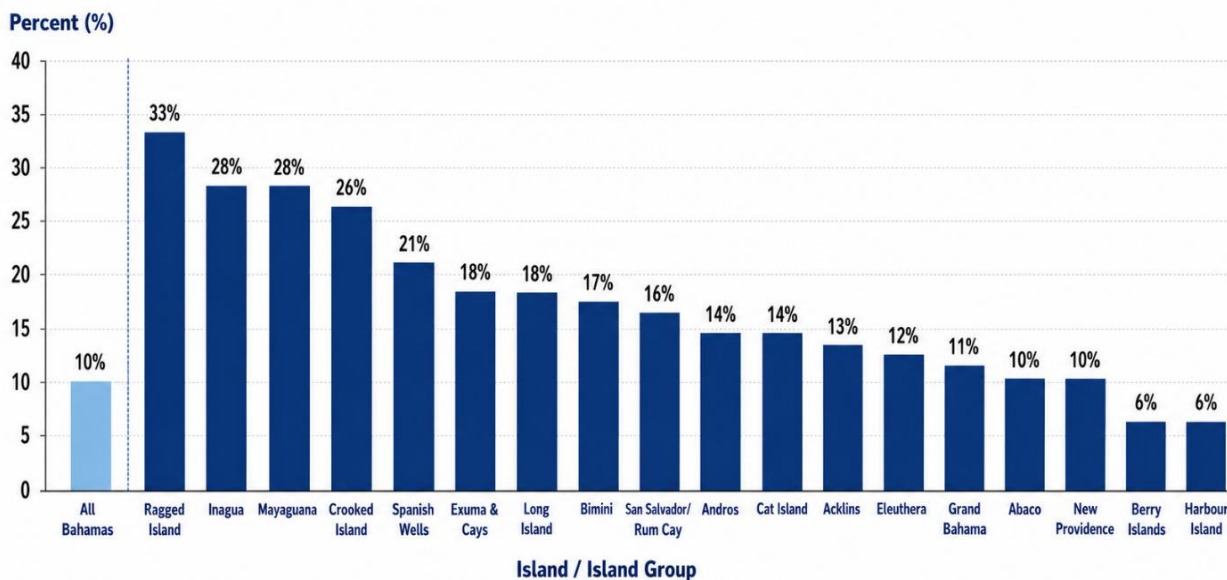
The full report and accompanying statistical tables are available online through the Institute's website: www.bnsi.stats.gov.bs

About the Bahamas National Statistical Institute (BNSI)

The Bahamas National Statistical Institute (BNSI), formerly the Department of Statistics, is the official national statistics agency responsible for producing and disseminating reliable, timely, and relevant data to support evidence-based decision-making across all sectors of Bahamian society. Established under the Statistics Act 2021, BNSI operates with legal authority to independently manage national data operations, including censuses, surveys, and the publication of key economic and social indicators.

Guided by a multidisciplinary Board of Directors and aligned with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, the Institute plays a critical role in supporting policy development, private sector growth, and public understanding. BNSI is committed to statistical excellence, data privacy, and transparency and actively collaborates with regional and global partners to strengthen The Bahamas' National Statistical System. To access BNSI data and reports, visit stats.gov.bs.

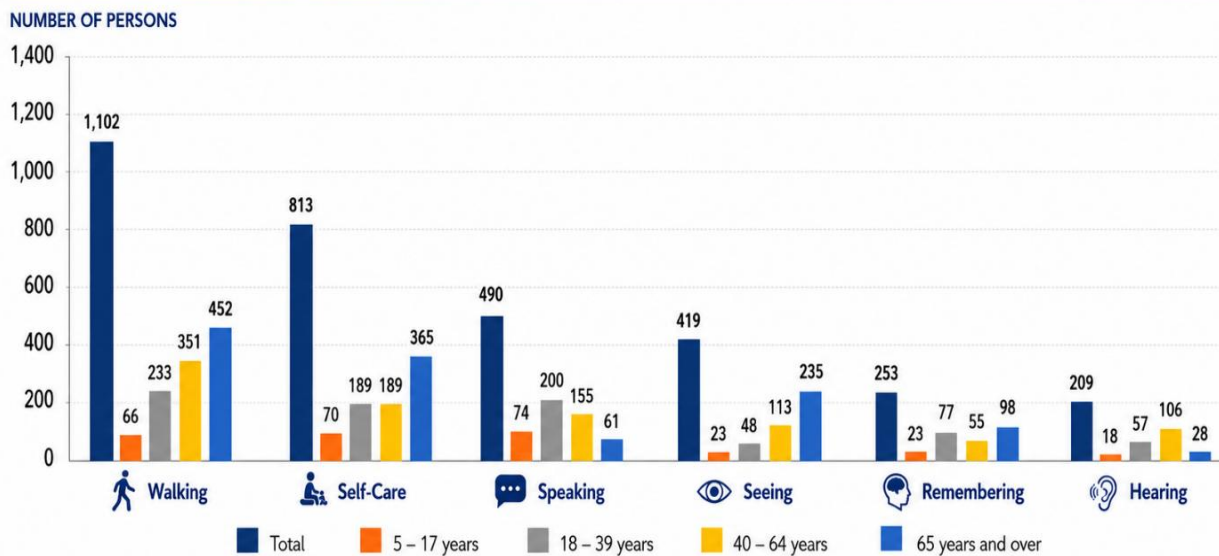
Percentage of Population Reporting Disabilities by Island, All Bahamas: 2022 Census



Source: Bahamas National Statistical Institute, 2022 Census of Population and Housing: Disability Report

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

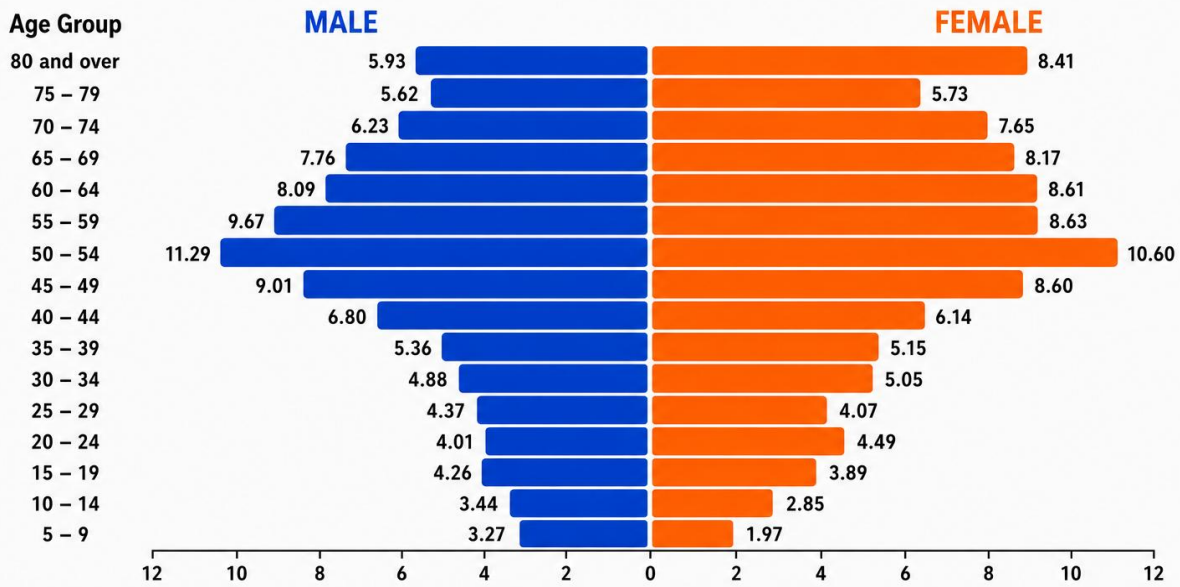
Persons Reporting “Cannot Do at All” by Functional Domain and Age Group, All Bahamas: 2022 Census



Source: Bahamas National Statistical Institute, 2022 Population and Housing Census

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Persons with Single and Multiple Disabilities (Combined) Population Pyramid by Age and Sex – All Bahamas, 2022 Census



Source: Bahamas National Statistical Institute, 2022 Population and Housing Census

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding.

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For media inquiries, interviews, or additional information, please contact:

Kim Saunders

Chief Census Officer, Bahamas National Statistical Institute, BNSI

Email: kimsaunders@bahamas.gov.bs