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Measurement of disability in Mexico
A different approach

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Abstract About six hundred million people live with disabilities of various types and the number is increasing due to the rise of chronic diseases, injuries, violence, car crashes, falls and other causes such as ageing. It is estimated that in Mexico there are about 2 million people with some type of disability; nevertheless we think that the number is underestimated because the procedure to obtain data was based on a priori definition and past framework

Introduction

For many years, national population censuses and household surveys have included questions about disability in their intervention schedules.

Each country use different measuring instrument with variations in the questions and in the obtained data, causing a problem in disability statistics comparability.

The reasons are:
- Often a priory definition of disability is used
- There is not a common language.
- Many surveys have a very limited focus and domains coverage looking mostly at few impairments.
- No or very little linkage with health surveys.

All these reasons result in a the loss of data comparability.

How is ICF addressing the problem?

- define disability as a multidimensional & universal experience (a posteriori definition)
- proves useful in improving cross-population comparability by providing a common framework
- proves a inclusive focus & comprehensive domain coverage
- choices for threshold can be explicitly stated
- measurement can be tailored to suit the purpose

For these benefits in Mexico we decide to star the measurement based in a different approach.

The sources more recently are National Population CENSUS and National Health Survey 2000 (NHS). Both questionnaires used questions about disability.

Questions used in CENSUS and NHS mixed concepts about impairments and disability.

Numbers obtained were: 1,8% for CENSUS and 2,3% for NHS in Mexico

Methods & Materials

- The National Performance Evaluation Survey (ENED -2002) was the source of data used.

- WHO-DAS II (WHO disability schedule) was used. This questionnaire, based on the conceptual framework of ICF, measures the difficulty degree across the main health domains.

- The different domains of the both instruments were compared and analyzed.
- The algorithm used for grading WHO-DAS II was adapted in relation to the ENED -2002 questions on health domains.

- Firs values were obtained in a 0 -100 scale, and we worked with four cut points (60, 80, 90 and 95)

- The results were presented to a group of experts and they defined cut point 90 in the scale and all values up to 90 were considered with some disability.

Table I
Disability prevalence according selected cut points
Mexico 2003

	per60	per80	per90	per95
Women	35.5	14.8	8.2	4.6
Men	48.4	21.5	12.5	6.8
Both sexs	43.0	18.7	10.7	5.9

Source: Results of Aproach based WHODAS-II
National Performance Evaluation Survey 2002-2003

Table II
Disability prevalence by age group
Mexico

Both sexs

	per90*	CENSUS2000**	NHS2000***
20-24	3.7	1.1	1.4
25-29	4.1	1.2	1.5
30-34	5.0	1.3	1.6
35-39	6.1	1.5	2.0
40-44	8.9	1.9	2.5
45-49	10.2	2.7	2.9
50-54	13.8	3.7	3.6
55-59	19.4	4.9	4.0
60-64	22.5	6.8	6.2
65-69	26.6	9.5	9.1
70-74	34.9	13.5	13.4
75-79	47.0	18.8	18.2
80-84	47.7	27.0	27.7
85 y >	61.8	38.4	37.1
Total	10.7	1.8	2.3

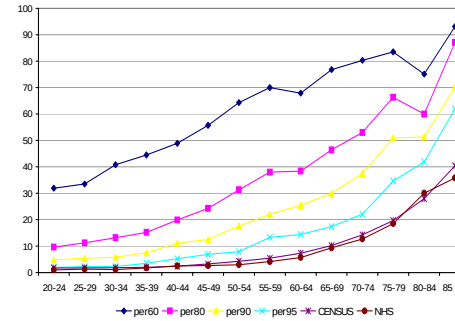
*National Performance Evaluation Survey 2002-2003
** National Population CENSUS 2000
*** National Health Survey 2000

Results

- The values are different according cut point selected. With 43% for 60 and 5.9% for 95. Table I

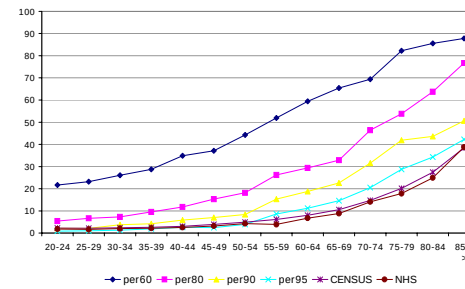
- Overall disability prevalence was 10.7%; disability prevalence in males was 8.2% and in females 12.5%. The values by age group vary between 4% for those under 30 years old to 62% for those older than 85 years old. Table II

Using a posteriori disability definition & setting evidence-base thresholds of dificulties in funtioning
Women, Mexico 2003



Conclusions

Men, Mexico 2003



In figures we appreciate that disability increases as the age increases for diferent cut point, CENSUS and NHS by sex.

The values of CENSUS and NHS are very similar

- Values obtained are higher than those obtained by the National Population and Household Census of 2000 and the National Health Survey of 2000 which are the main sources of information for disability data in Mexico.

- The measurement is based in a different approach using a posteriori definition based threshold of difficulties in functioning with an integral and universal model.