



Press release

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20 Economic and social situation of the population

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People with disabilities in Switzerland 2007

The number of disabled people varies widely depending on the definition of the disability

Neuchâtel, 27.11.2009 (FSO) – **Less than 1% of the population cannot walk without assistance, while 26% report being slightly or severely limited in their usual activities. To mark the International Day of Disabled Persons (3 December), the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) is presenting a series of profiles of persons who are living at home and can be considered disabled based on different definitions. Older people as well as women are more affected by disability.**

Disability presents different faces depending on its definition. Among the population living in a private home, the proportion of persons affected by a disability varies between 5% and 27%, depending on whether the focus is on persons with impairments (difficulty seeing, hearing or walking, short stature, etc.), activity limitation (eating, washing oneself, going shopping, etc.), restrictions in participation (exercising an occupation, meeting friends, voting, etc.), receipt of financial benefits for a disability (pension or disability allowance from the disability insurance or another insurance), or need for assistance due to a health problem.

SWISS FEDERAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
Press Office

Interested readers will find the complete text of the press release in the German, French or Italian version:

For German see: [Bundesamt für Statistik > Aktuell > Medienmitteilungen](#)

For French see: [Office fédéral de la statistique > Actualités > Communiqués de presse](#)

For Italian see: [Ufficio federale di statistica > Attualità > Comunicati stampa](#)