



**Agenda**  
**Accessibility Advisory Committee**

November 20, 2024

4 p.m.

Electronic Meeting

Quorum: 8

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**Page No.**

**A. Call to Order**

**B. Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that York Region is located on the traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples including the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat and Métis peoples and the treaty territories of the Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Williams Treaties First Nations.

Today this area is home to many diverse Indigenous Peoples, and we recognize their history, spirituality, culture and stewardship of this land.

We also acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our closest First Nation community.

**C. Disclosures of Interest**

**D. Accessibility Updates**

**D.1 Update on Accessibility Activities**

Stephen Maio, Senior Executive Officer, People, Equity and Culture, Office of the CAO

Michele Byrne, Manager, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility, People, Equity and Culture, Office of the CAO

**E. Presentations**

**E.1 Disability in York Region - Results from the 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability** 1

Kim Bacani-Angus, Lead, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility, People, Equity and Culture, Office of the CAO

**E.2 Transporting Patients' Assistive Devices Policy Presentation** 23

Natalie Kedzierski, Deputy Chief, Paramedic Services, Community and Health Services Department

**F. Deputations**

(Subject to Committee granting deputant status.)

None

**G. Communications**

**G.1 New Appointment to the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee** 39

Memorandum from Stephen Maio, Senior Executive Officer, People, Equity and Culture, Office of the CAO dated November 20, 2024

Recommendation: Receive

**G.2 2025 Meeting Dates for York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee** 41

Memorandum from Chris Raynor, Regional Clerk dated November 20, 2024

Recommendation: Receive

**H. Other Business**

**I. Adjournment**

# York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (YRAAC)

## Presentation Backgrounder

- Date:** November 20, 2024
- Title:** Disability in York Region: Results from the 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability
- Purpose:** Provide information on disability data in York Region
- Ask:** How can the York Region disability data be shared and used to better serve York Region residents?

### Introduction and Purpose

- The Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD) is a national survey that gathers information about Canadians aged 15 years and over whose daily activities are limited due to a long-term condition or health-related problem and is conducted every 5 years.
- The CSD was developed by Statistics Canada in collaboration with Employment and Social Development Canada and was conducted from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- Results from the 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability for York Region were first presented to the YRAAC in November 2019.
- New topics were introduced in 2022 including cannabis use, accessibility barriers, social isolation, food security, homelessness, sexual orientation, disability self-identification and COVID-19.
- York Region disability data offers insights into the people we serve and presents an opportunity for evidence-based planning within our programs and service delivery

### Scope of Consultation

- How can we present the CSD data to accommodate different learning styles?
- Beyond a research brief and infographic, how would you like to see the information shared or presented?
- What areas do you think York Region should prioritize based on the data presented?

### Presenters

Kim Bacani-Angus, Lead, Accessibility, People, Equity and Culture



# Disability in York Region Results from the 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability

Presented to:  
York Region Accessibility  
Advisory Committee

Presented by:  
Kim Bacani-Angus

Presented on:  
November 20, 2024





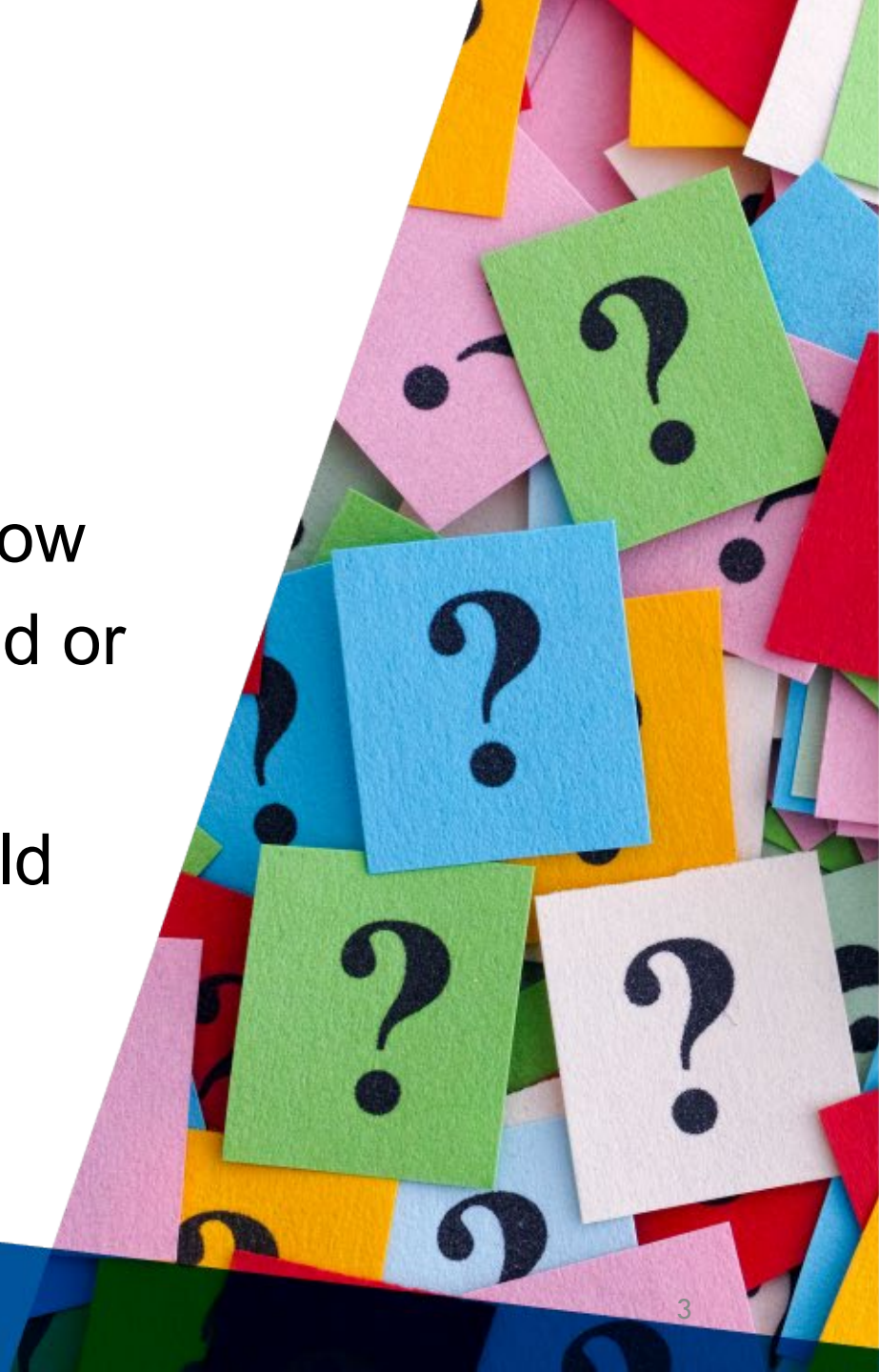
# Presentation Overview

- Canadian Survey on Disability 2022
- York Region Demographics
- York Region Disability Statistics
- Key Points
- Resources



# Consultation Questions to Consider

1. How can we present the CSD data to accommodate different learning styles?
2. Beyond a research brief and infographic, how would you like to see the information shared or presented?
3. What areas do you think York Region should prioritize based on the data presented?



# Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD) Statistics 2022



## Survey

### Phase One:

2021 Census  
Long Form

### Phase Two:

2022 CSD  
Questionnaire



## Coverage

- Age 15+
- Private Households



## Sample size

Approximately  
**54,000**  
individuals



## Frequency

### Every 5 years

- 2022 CSD
- 2017 CSD

# Important Note: Definition of Disability

## Social Model of Disability

Disability is the result of the interaction between a person's functional limitations and barriers in the environment, including social and physical barriers that make it harder to function day-to-day





# Types of Disability (Canadian Survey on Disability 2022)



**PAIN-RELATED:** Having daily activities limited because of pain that is always present or due to periods of pain that reoccur from time to time.



**SEEING:** Having daily activities limited because of difficulties with their ability to see.



**FLEXIBILITY:** Having daily activities limited because of difficulties bending down or reaching.



**HEARING:** Having daily activities limited because of difficulties with their ability to hear.



**MOBILITY:** Having daily activities limited because of difficulties with their ability to move around, including walking or using stairs.



**LEARNING:** Having daily activities limited because of a self-identified learning difficulty or a learning disability diagnosed by a health care professional.



**MENTAL HEALTH-RELATED:** Having daily activities limited because of difficulties with an emotional, psychological or mental health condition.



**MEMORY:** Having daily activities limited because of difficulties with ongoing memory problems or periods of confusion.



**DEXTERITY:** Having daily activities limited because of difficulties using their fingers to grasp small objects.



**DEVELOPMENTAL:** Condition diagnosed by a health care professional, regardless of the level of difficulty or the frequency of the activity limitations reported.

# Why is this data important?



Offers insights into the people we serve



Underscores the importance of accessibility and inclusion efforts

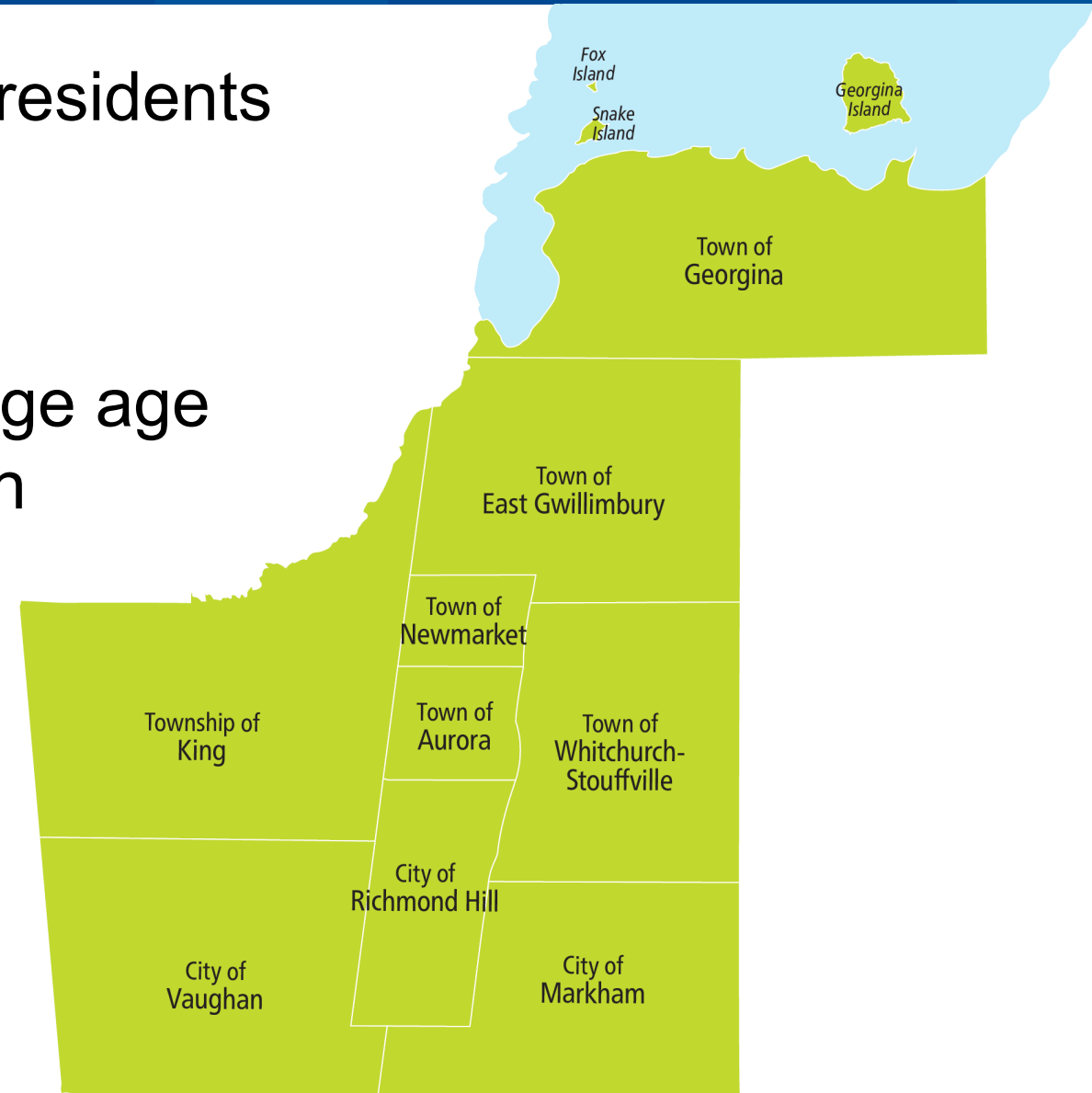


Allows evidence-based program and service delivery planning



# York Region Demographics

- York Region is home to 1.2 million residents
- Our population is represented by all ages, backgrounds and abilities
- As our population grows, the average age rises and the number of people with disabilities increases
- Disability can affect any person of any age or background



# Persons with Disabilities in York Region, 2022

**21.3%** of York Region residents aged 15 and older, or **206,250** people, had at least one disability



This represents an **increase of 3.8%** from 2017



# Disability Rates in York Region and Ontario

The disability rate was lower in York Region than in Ontario



**York Region 21.3%**

206,250 people with disabilities



**Ontario 28.0%**

3,235,340 people with disabilities

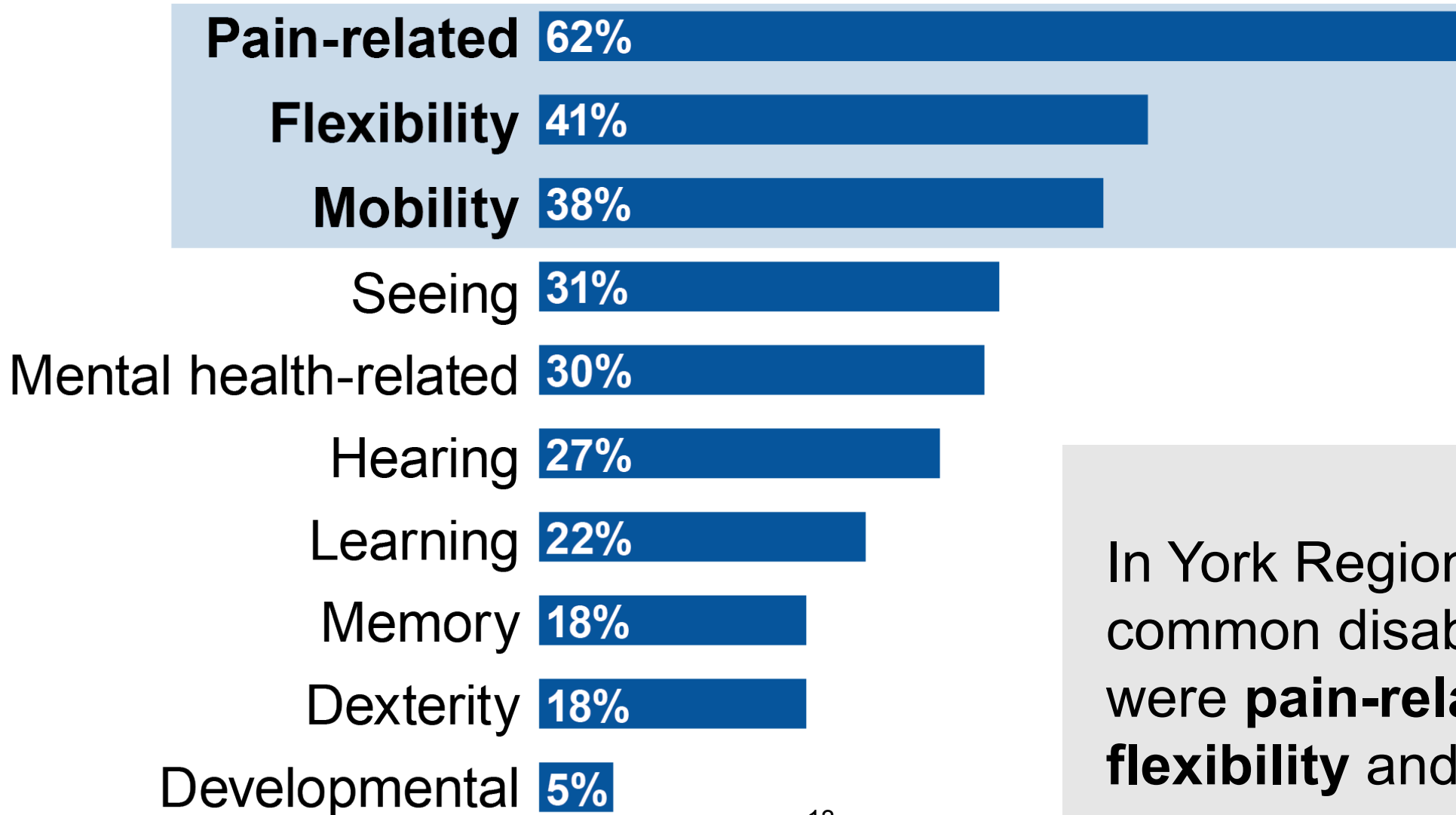


# Disability in York Region by Gender

More **women+** than **men+** had a disability

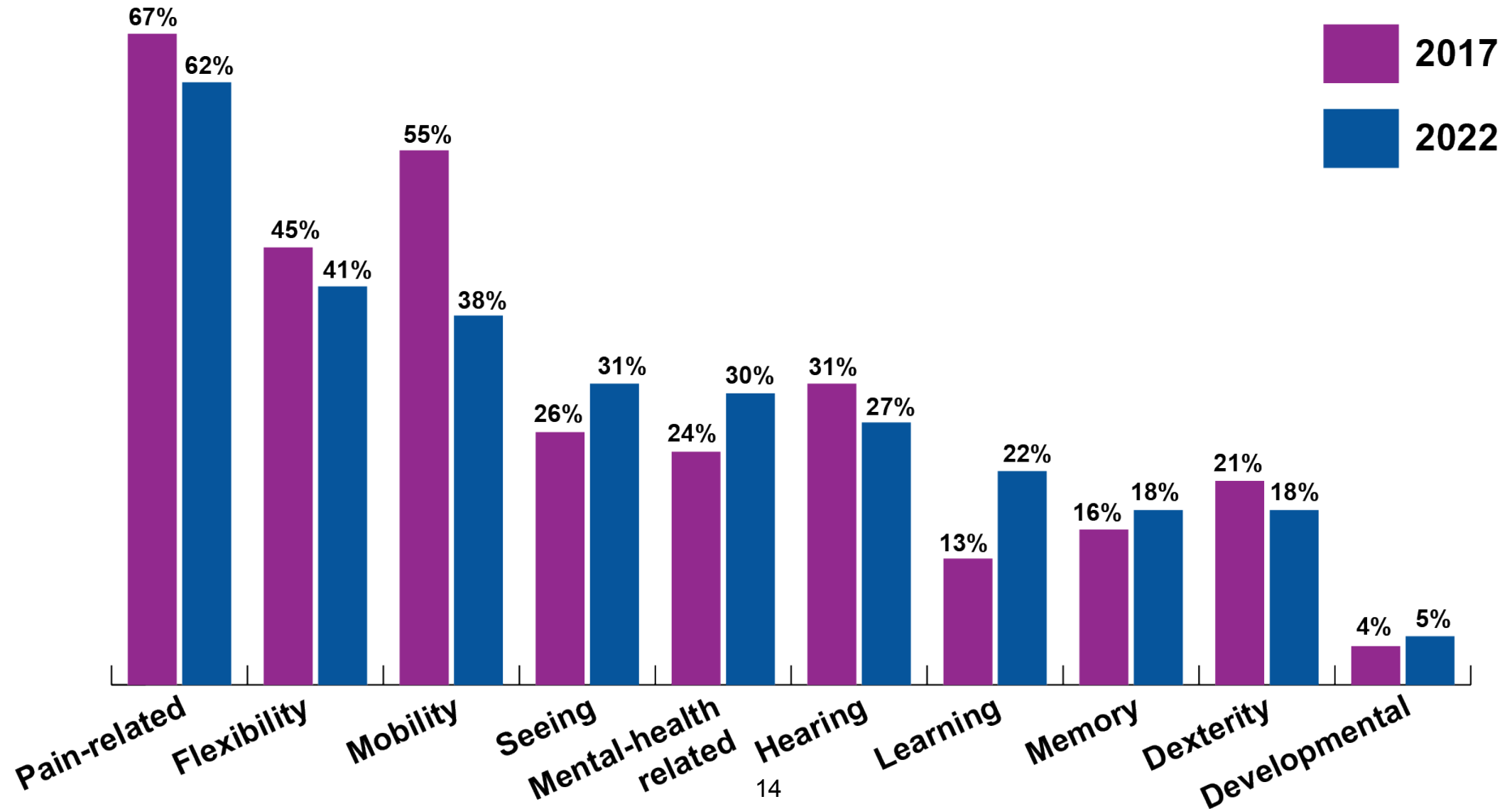


# Disability Types in York Region 2022



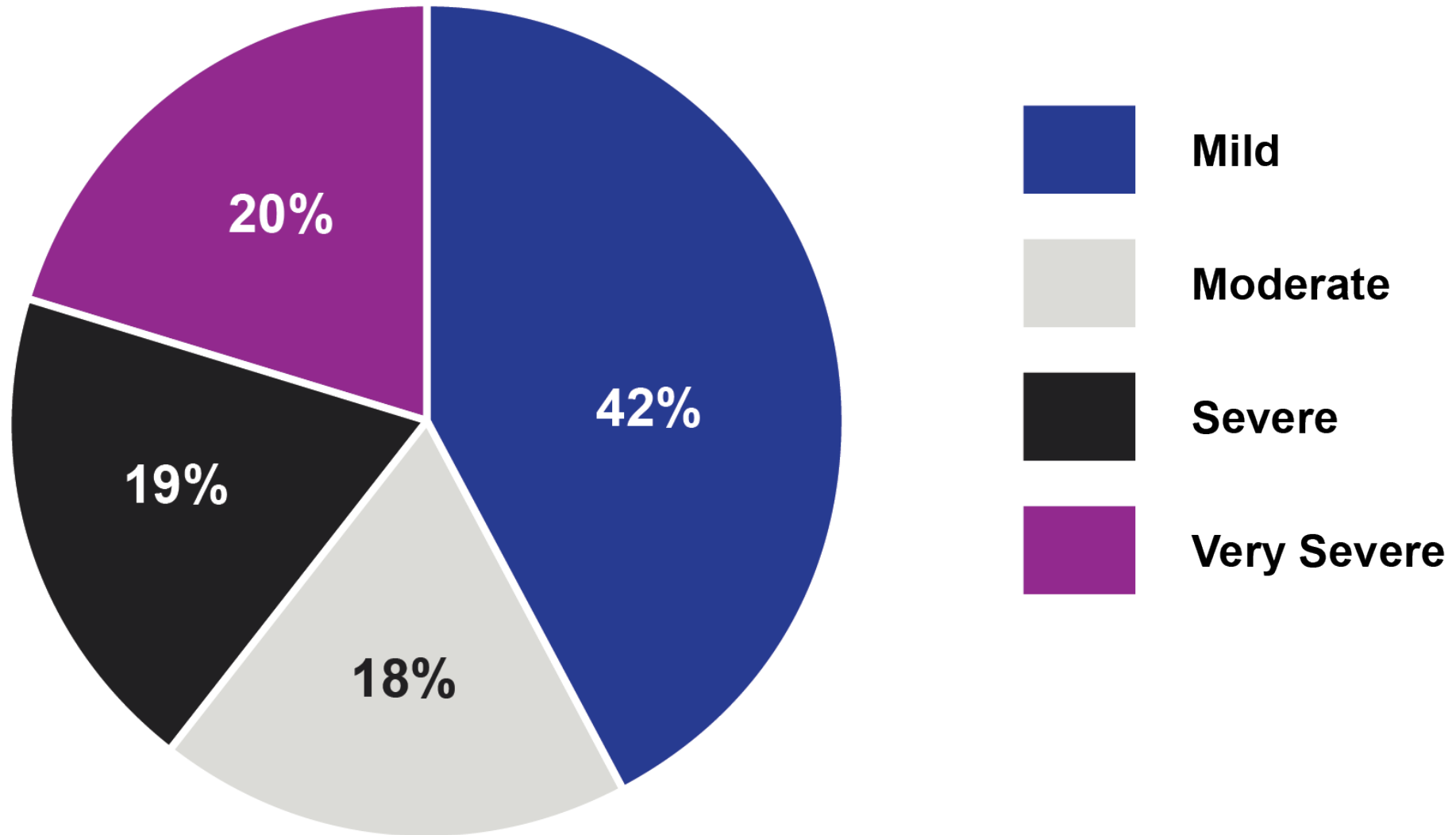
In York Region, the most common disability types were **pain-related**, **flexibility** and **mobility**

# Disability Type, 15 years and over, 2017-2022





# Severity of Disability in York Region 2022



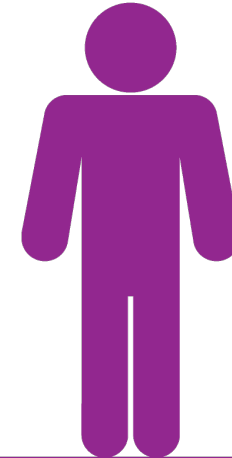
# Employment Status

Working-age adults with disabilities were less likely to be employed



**With disabilities**

**63% Employed**

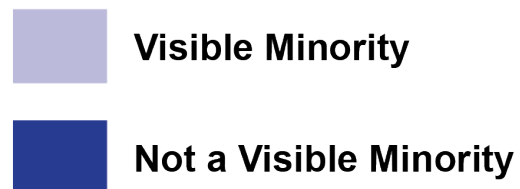
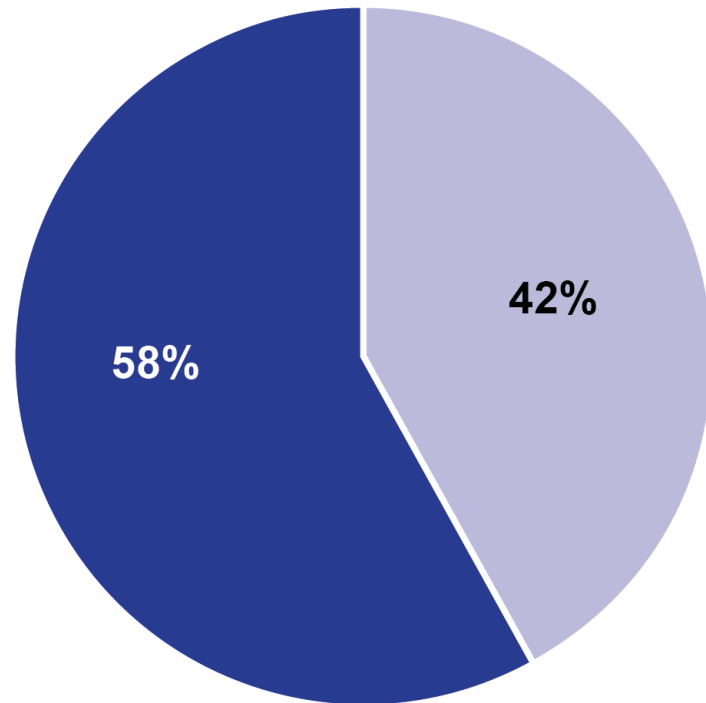


**Without disabilities**

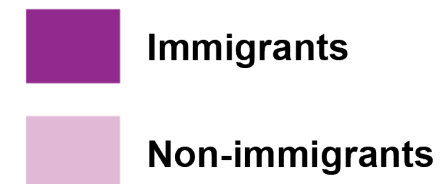
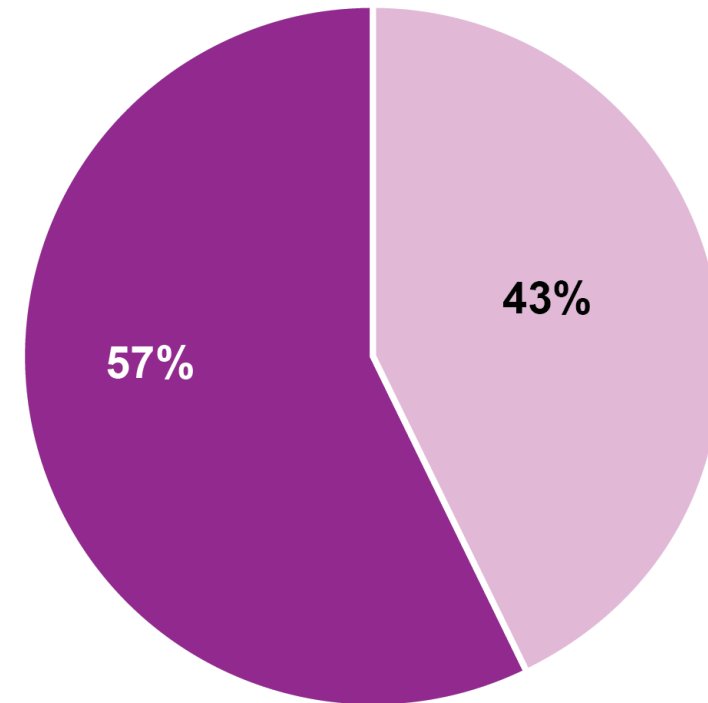
**79% Employed**

# Diversity: Visible Minority and Immigration Status

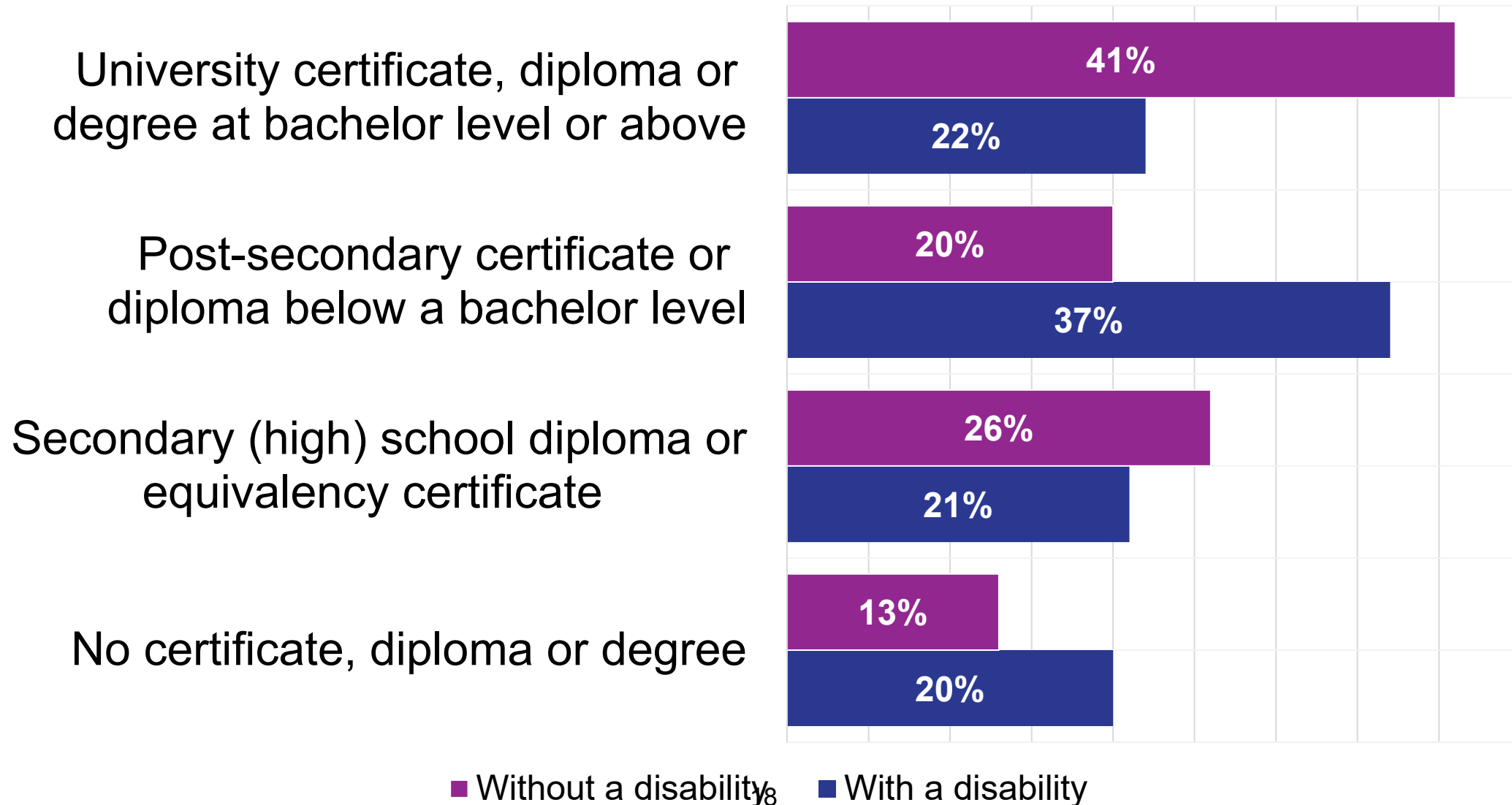
42% of persons with disabilities are visible minorities



57% of persons with disabilities are immigrants



# Education Levels of Persons with and without Disabilities





**How can we present the disability data to accommodate different learning styles?**

**Consultation Question 1 of 3**

**Beyond a research brief and infographic, how would you like to see the information shared or presented?**

**Consultation Question 2 of 3**

**What areas do you think York Region should  
prioritize based on the data presented?**

**Consultation Question 3 of 3**

For more information, please  
contact the Accessibility Unit at  
[aoda@york.ca](mailto:aoda@york.ca)

# York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (YRAAC)

## Presentation Backgrounder

- Date:** November 20, 2024
- Title:** Transporting Patients' Assistive Devices Policy Presentation
- Purpose:** To update York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (YRAAC) on the draft policy regarding the transportation of patients' assistive devices by paramedics during emergencies.
- The ask:** We will be advising YRAAC on the most feasible approach based on industry standards and best practices.

### Introduction and Purpose

- The Transporting Patients' Assistive Devices Policy was created in response to a request from the YRAAC to outline procedures for paramedics when transporting patients who have assistive devices, particularly wheelchairs and other large devices. This policy reflects our commitment to accessibility and providing timely and safe transportation for all patients
- This policy is a response to community need and aligns with our goals to enhance service delivery

### Details

- **Objectives:**
  - Provide safe and timely transportation of patients with assistive devices
  - Provide clear guidelines for paramedics on handling assistive devices during emergencies
  - Coordinate with Mobility On-Request when safe storage of devices on ambulances is not possible
- **Parameters:**
  - The policy applies to all paramedic services within York Region
  - Safe storage of assistive devices on ambulances is at the discretion of the paramedics.
  - If safe storage is not possible, Mobility On-Request will be contacted to arrange transportation of the devices
- **Proposed start date:**

- The policy is proposed to take effect upon its approval and finalization after updating the YRAAC

## Scope of Consultation

- **What is YRAAC being asked to provide input on?**
  - Do you see any further changes with the proposed policy?
  - Are there other items we need to consider?
- **What are the non-negotiables? (out of scope for consultation)**
  - The primary objective of providing timely and safe transportation of patients to hospital cannot be compromised by delays dealing with assistive devices
  - Paramedics have the final decision in determining if assistive devices can be safely stored and transported

## Presenter

Natalie Kedzierski, Deputy Chief, Paramedic Services, Community and Health Services

# Transporting Patients' Assistive Devices & Personal Items Policy

Presentation to the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee

Natalie Kedzierski, Deputy Chief, Paramedic Services,  
Community and Health Services

November 20, 2024





# Purpose

- Update the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (YRAAC) on the draft new policy for transporting patients' assistive devices during emergencies
- Provide an overview of Paramedic Services' approach that is feasible and meets community needs

# Consultation Questions to Consider

1. Do you see any further changes with the proposed policy?
2. Are there other items we need to consider?



# Best Practices: Environmental Scan



# Ambulance Storage Options



# Ambulance: Interior

# Key Information about the Policy

## **A. Respect for Property and Dignity**

- Assistive devices will be safely stored and transported if possible, depending on several factors
- They will be transported in a manner that protects the property and respects the dignity and independence of patients



# Key Information about the Policy (continued)

## **B. Conditions for Transporting Assistive Devices**

- Does not interfere with patient care or result in excessive delay
- Patient has provided permission and instructions on handling the device, where applicable
- Safe storage is possible as determined at the discretion of the paramedic



# Key Information about the Policy (continued)

## **C. Alternative Arrangements**

- If safe storage is not possible, the paramedic will contact York Region's Mobility On-Request to arrange pick-up of the assistive device
- Efforts will be made to deliver assistive devices to patients and/or their emergency contact as promptly as possible

# Key Information about the Policy (continued)

## D. Handling Personal Items

- Valuable items may be refused (e.g., jewelry, bags)
- Patients may travel with one small personal item max
- Additional personal belongings will not be permitted
- Patients are responsible for finding alternative transport for their personal effects

# Conclusion - Next Steps

- Finalize the policy
- Implement the policy and educate paramedics
- Monitor and evaluate the policy's effectiveness

**Do you see any further changes with the proposed policy?**

**Consultation Question 1 of 2**

**Are there other items we need to consider?**

**Consultation Question 2 of 2**

# Thank you!

**Natalie Kedzierski, Deputy Chief, Paramedic Services**





## Memorandum

TO: York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee Members

FROM: Stephen Maio, Senior Executive Officer  
People, Equity and Culture

DATE: November 20, 2024

RE: **New Appointment to the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee**

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On behalf of Regional Chair Emmerson, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the appointment of one new citizen member to the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (YRAAC). The Regional Chairman has the authority to make additional appointments to Regional Committees, including the YRAAC.

A mid-term recruitment was completed to strengthen the membership of the YRAAC both in numbers and disability type. One member will complete serving their two consecutive terms at the end of 2024 leaving a gap on the committee. The goal was to recruit a new member to the committee with expertise or lived experience with a hearing disability.

As a result, the following individual is appointed for a four-year term:

### **Kathleen Kedzierski**

Kathleen is a person with a hearing disability. Kathleen brings a wealth of experience in leading and supporting professional and community-based committees. Her most current experience and contributions include the Newmarket Accessibility Advisory Committee, where she is currently serving her term as a member.

This appointment is effective immediately and will remain in effect until the end of 2028 when her term with the YRAAC concludes.

York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee advises Regional Council and York Regional Police on how to make it easier for people with disabilities to use York Region's programs and services. The majority of committee members must be people



with disabilities and must be either a York Region resident or be part of an organization serving York Region residents with disabilities. The Committee term runs concurrent with the term of Regional Council.

The appointment of Kathleen will be a valuable addition to the YRAAC as the Committee continues its work to assist Council in realizing its vision of creating welcoming and inclusive communities for everyone.

Sincerely,

Steve Maio  
Senior Executive Officer, People, Equity and Culture  
The Regional Municipality of York

SM/MB/kba

Copy to:

Erin Mahoney, Chief Administrative Officer  
Wayne Emmerson, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Lina Bigioni, Chief of Staff  
Dan Kuzmyk, Regional Solicitor  
Stephen Maio, Senior Executive Officer, People, Equity and Culture  
Carol Clark, Committee Coordinator  
Anitra Basant Sisavang, Executive Director, Police Services Board

EDOCS#



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To: Members of York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: November 20, 2024

From: Christopher Raynor  
Regional Clerk

Re: 2025 Meeting Dates for York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee

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This memorandum confirms the 2025 meeting dates scheduled for the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee. All meetings are scheduled from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and will be held in a virtual format using the Zoom platform. Meeting invitations have been circulated.

### **2025 Meeting Dates**

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Wednesday, November 26, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CR", written over a horizontal line.

Christopher Raynor  
Regional Clerk

#16427678