Wheelchair and Scooter Use and Access in Canada: Prevalence and Policy

Emma M. Smith and William C. Miller
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

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Acknowledgements
Canada Health Act, 1984

- Public Administration
- Comprehensiveness
- Universality
- Portability
- Accessibility
Methods

Using the Canadian Survey on Disability (Statistics Canada), we conducted bootstrapping analysis to estimate the prevalence and demographic factors associated with wheelchair use for community-dwelling Canadians over the age of 15.

Using the Disability Policy Lens (Canadian Disability Policy Alliance), we conducted a national evaluation of policies regulating funding for wheeled mobility devices, verified by clinicians experienced in device provision in each jurisdiction.
288 800 wheeled mobility device users

197 560 use more than one device

19.1%
Average age 65.4

Use increases with age

% of population using wheeled mobility

- 15-24: 1%
- 25-44: 2%
- 45-64: 3%
- 65-74: 4%
- 75+: 5%

60% female
Funding

- Type of coverage: Special access, cost-shared, loan/ownership
- Legislated or not
- Coverage in Residential Care
- Coverage over Age 65
Key Issue
Coverage for Ageing Adults
Key Issue
Definition of Basic and Essential Mobility
Key Issue
Definition of Disability
Conclusions

• Unequal access to funding across/within jurisdictions
• Range in eligibility and funding levels
• Variance in requirement of income test
• Varying definitions of disability and basic/essential need
• Lack of available funding for multiple needs/devices
References


