

Fact sheet issued October 2011

Help from family, friends and neighbours

According to the *Victorian Population Health Survey of People with an Intellectual Disability 2009* (VPHS-ID 2009), people with an intellectual disability are less likely than the general Victorian population to:

- receive help when needed from family (73.1 per cent compared with 80.3 per cent)
- receive help when needed from friends (39.1 per cent compared with 80.6 per cent)
- receive help when needed from neighbours (29.9 per cent compared with 50.2 per cent)
- have someone outside their household who can provide care in the event of an emergency (71.8 per cent compared to 88.5 per cent).

More connected in some areas

According to the VPHS-ID 2009, people with an intellectual disability are more likely than the general Victorian population to:

- have attended a support group meeting in the past two years (19.1 per cent compared with 10.0 per cent)
- to belong to a community or other action group (25.7 per cent compared with 19 per cent)
- to have attended a community event in the past six months (74.1 per cent compared with 52.9 per cent)
- receive help from a volunteer organisation (19.8 per cent compared with 5.8 per cent).

Same connection in some areas

According to the VPHS-ID 2009, people with an intellectual disability are just as likely to belong to a:

- sports group (22.6 per cent) as the general Victorian population (26 per cent)
- church group (16.0 per cent) as the general Victorian population (16.4 per cent).

Less connected in some areas

According to the VPHS-ID 2009, people with an intellectual disability are less likely than the general Victorian population to:

- help out a local group as a volunteer (13.0 per cent compared with 22.2 per cent)
- access community resources such as leisure and sports centres, libraries and neighbourhood centres (66.6 per cent compared with 84.0 per cent).

Why does connection matter?

Over the past two decades, government policy has focused on supporting people with a disability to participate more in community life. However, despite a stronger presence in the community, the extent to which people with a disability are valued as active members of their community is varied. As the support provided to people with a disability continues to become more self-directed and flexible, local communities need to be supported to become more welcoming and inclusive of people with a disability.

Who can help?

RuralAccess, MetroAccess and Deafaccess are part of the Disability Services Community Building Program. The program is a part of the Victorian State Disability Plan, the vision of which is a more inclusive Victoria where disability is not a barrier to participation in community life.

The Community Building Program supports communities to develop new ways of including people with a disability in their local community.

- MetroAccess workers are based in each of the 31 local councils across metropolitan Melbourne.
- RuralAccess workers are located in 25 local governments and community health services across rural and regional Victoria.
- Deafaccess workers are based in five community service organisations across rural Victoria.

These workers plan and develop strategies across the full range of community infrastructure including education and training, transport, health, accommodation and housing, physical access planning, sport, recreation and the arts.

Figure 1: Connections with others

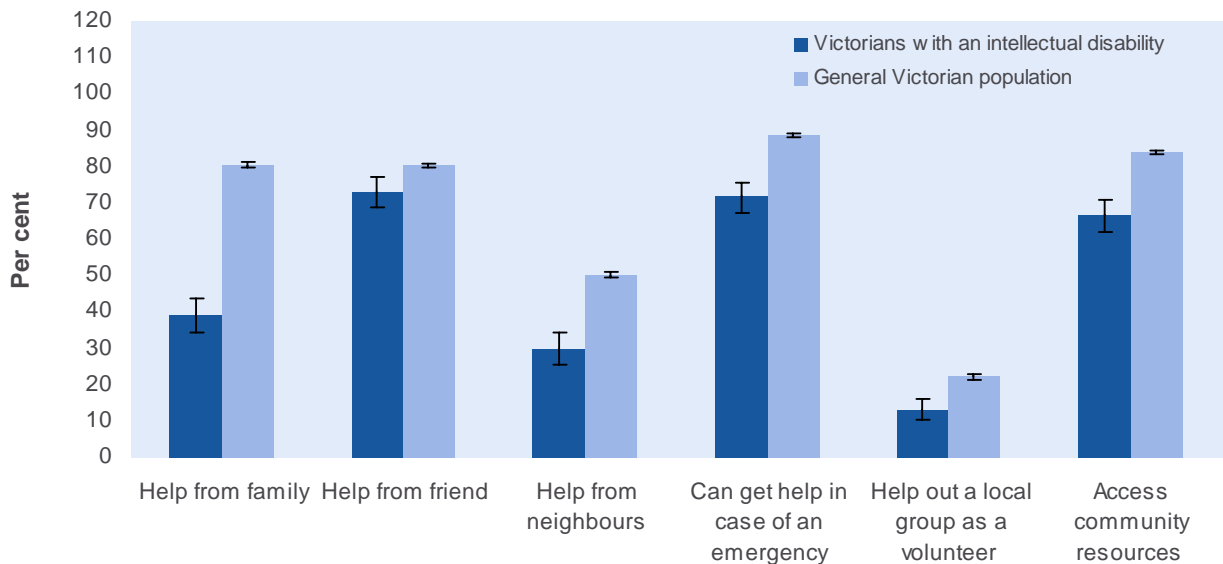
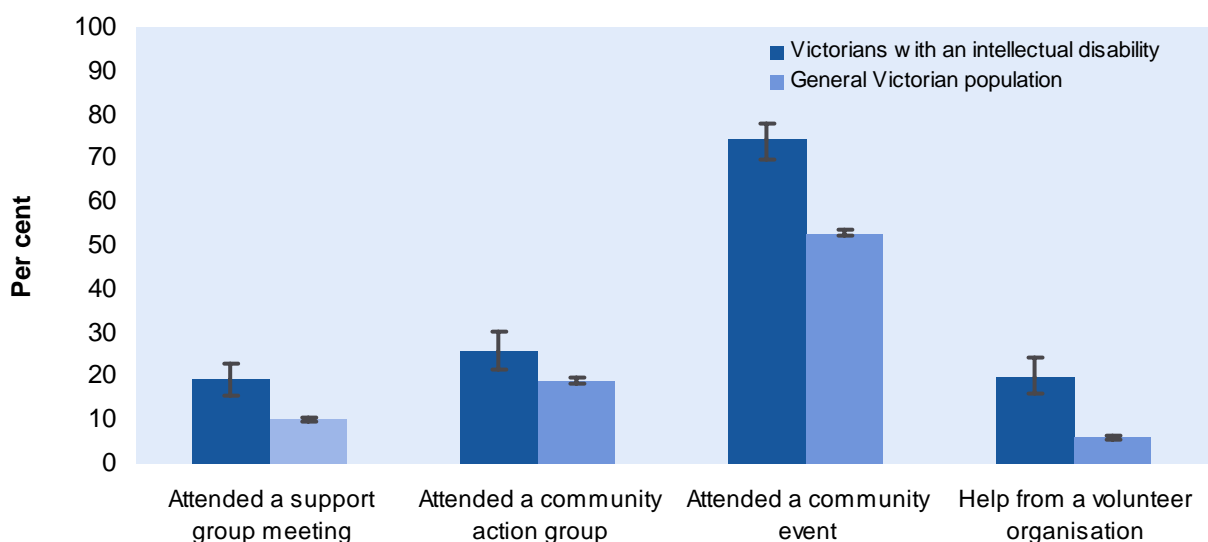


Figure 2: Connections with others



For further information

The VPHS-ID 2009 is a statewide survey that the Department of Health undertook to collect information on the health and wellbeing of people with an intellectual disability in Victoria. This is the first time that the survey has been carried out in Victoria.

The full report of the VPHS-ID 2009 is available at:
<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/>

- Access for All Abilities (AAA) develop and support a diverse range of sport and recreation environments that are inclusive of and accessible to people with disabilities. For more details go to:
<http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/sport/inclusive-sport/Access-For-All-Abilities>
- Arts Access Victoria is a disability arts organisation providing access, participation, engagement and professional development in the arts and cultural life across Victoria. For more details go to:
<http://www.artsaccess.com.au/>
- Go to the Municipal Association of Victoria website for links to local councils to find out information about local council activities at: <http://www.mav.asn.au>
- Companion Card allows free admission to transport and events for attendant carers of eligible people with disabilities. For more details go to: <http://www.companioncard.org.au>
- MetroAccess RuralAccess and DeafAccess workers facilitate programs to include people with a disability in local community life. For more information about these programs go to:
http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/disability/building_better_communities

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