DISABILITY

This population profile provides information about persons with disabilities in Calgary based on data from Statistics Canada's 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD).

This profile includes Calgary specific data on disability prevalence, severity, and type, as well as the intersection of disability and the following topics:

- Labour force status
- Median income
- Visible minority status
- Immigrant status
- Education

Underlined blue text provides links to external websites or to the document glossary. Numbers and percentages may not always match the table and chart totals due to rounding.

THE CANADIAN SURVEY ON DISABILITY (CSD)

The purpose of the CSD is to provide information about the lived experiences of Canadian youth and adults whose everyday activities are limited due to a long-term condition or health-related problem. Data from this survey helps provide valuable insights into barriers that persons with disabilities face in their daily lives.

As defined by the CSD: A person with a disability is someone who has a difficulty or impairment due to a long-term condition or health-related problem who also experiences limitation in their daily activities.

This national survey is conducted every five years. The target audience of this survey is a subset of the overall population. It includes those aged 15 and over who reported having a difficulty or long-term condition in the Activities of Daily Living question on the 2021 census long-form questionnaire.

Note: The CSD includes only the population living in private households. The population in collective dwellings, including hospitals, nursing homes and group homes, was excluded. Persons living on First Nations reserves are also not included in this survey.

For further information about the CSD methodology, refer to the Notes section at the end of this document or visit statcan.gc.ca.

DISABILITY IN CALGARY SNAPSHOT FOR 2022

➢ Population aged 15 and over:
- **257,600 people with disabilities**
- 1,067,400 total Calgarians

➢ Disability prevalence in Calgary: **24%**

➢ Most common types of disability:
- **Pain-related**
- **Mental health-related**
- **Flexibility**
- **Mobility**

➢ Per cent of people with disabilities in Calgary classified as having "severe" or "very severe" disabilities: **40%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022, Canadian Survey on Disability, Tables 1, 2, and 3 accessed using the Community Data Program for the Calgary census subdivision.

DISABILITY PREVALENCE

In 2022, 24 per cent of Calgarians reported having a disability. In comparison, the disability prevalence rate in Alberta was 28 per cent and in Canada it was 27 per cent. In Calgary, women were more likely than men to report disabilities (27 per cent and 21 per cent, respectively).

Prevalence of disability by gender for those aged 15+ in Calgary			
	Women+	Men+	Total
Total population, 15 years and over	536,650	530,750	1,067,400
Persons with disabilities	145,300	112,300	257,600
Disability prevalence	**27%**	**21%**	**24%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022, Canadian Survey on Disability, Table 1, accessed using the Community Data Program for the Calgary census subdivision.

The prevalence of disability was much higher among those 65 years and over than among those 15 to 64 years. More than two in five seniors (42 per cent) reported having a disability, compared to 21 per cent of those aged 15 to 64 years.

Prevalence of disability by age in Calgary			
	15 to 64 years	65 years and over	Total
Total population, 15 years and over	908,250	159,150	1,067,400
Persons with disabilities	191,500	66,100	257,600
Disability prevalence	**21%**	**42%**	**24%**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022, Canadian Survey on Disability, Table 1, accessed using the Community Data Program for the Calgary census subdivision.

SEVERITY OF DISABILITY

Severity of disability takes into account the number of disability types, the level of difficulty, and the frequency a person experiences the difficulty. Of Calgarians who reported a disability, 40 per cent were classified as having a severe or very severe disability.

Severity of disability for those aged 15+ in Calgary		
	Total	Per cent
Population with disabilities, 15 years and over	257,600*	100%
Mild	103,150	40%
Moderate	51,300	20%
Severe	52,600	20%
Very Severe	50,500	20%

* Due to rounding, the total is 50 off from the combined total of the severity levels.
Source: Statistics Canada, 2022, Canadian Survey on Disability, Table 3, accessed using the Community Data Program for the Calgary census subdivision.

TYPE OF DISABILITY

Over one in ten Calgarians (14 per cent) reported pain-related disabilities. Mental health-related disabilities were experienced by 10 per cent of Calgarians, and flexibility and mobility disabilities were each experienced by 9 per cent of Calgarians.

Refer to the Glossary at the end of the document for definitions of each type of disability.

Note: A person with disabilities may experience one or more types of disability at once. Because disabilities often co-occur, the total number of disabilities outlined in the table below adds up to more than the total number of Calgarians with disabilities.

Type of disability for those aged 15+ in Calgary		
	Total	Per cent
Total population, 15 years and over	1,067,400	100%
Pain-related	153,700	14%
Mental health-related	110,850	10%
Flexibility	95,650	9%
Mobility	91,950	9%
Seeing	72,950	7%
Learning	66,450	6%
Hearing	54,000	5%
Memory	49,200	5%
Dexterity	48,650	5%
Developmental	16,150	2%
Unknown Disability Type	Data of insufficient quality for publication	

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022, Canadian Survey on Disability, Table 2, accessed using the Community Data Program for the Calgary census subdivision.

LABOUR FORCE STATUS AND DISABILITY

Labour force status refers to whether a person is employed, unemployed, or not in the labour force. People not in the labour force are those who were unable to work or unavailable for work, as well as those who were without work and had neither actively looked for work in the past four weeks nor had a job to start within four weeks.

In 2022, a smaller percentage of people with disabilities were in the labour force than the general Calgary population (72 per cent versus 78 per cent). Unemployment was slightly higher amongst those with disabilities, at 12 per cent, compared to 10 per cent for the Calgary population overall.

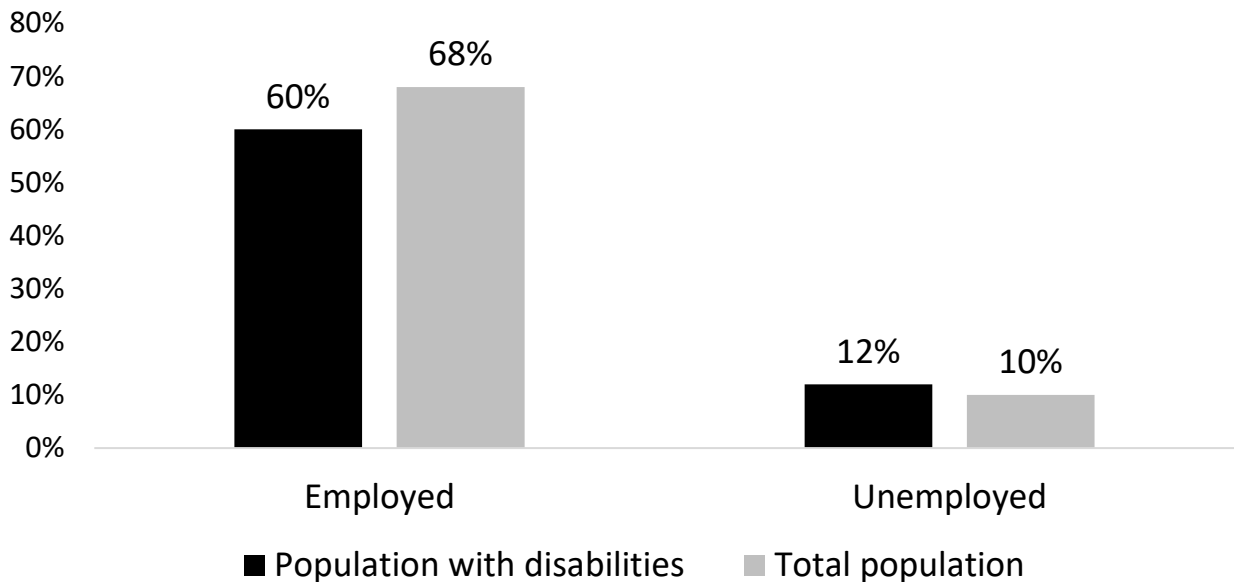Note: This data is specific to the population aged 15 to 64 years.

Labour force status for those aged 15 to 64 in Calgary				
	Population with disabilities		Total population	
	Total	Per cent	Total	Per cent
Total population for labour force status	191,500	100%	908,250	100%
In labour force	138,150	72%	707,850	78%
Employed	*114,750*	*60%*	*619,450*	*68%*
Unemployed	*23,400**	*12%**	*88,350*	*10%*
Not in labour force	53,400	28%	200,450	22%

* Marked as "use with caution"

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022, Canadian Survey on Disability, Table 4, accessed using the Community Data Program for the Calgary census subdivision.

Employed and Unemployed Status of Persons in the Labour Force in Calgary, 2022

MEDIAN INCOME AND DISABILITY

The median after-tax income for people with disabilities aged 15 to 64 years old in Calgary was $35,280 in 2021. This is after-tax income, which refers to total income less income taxes during the 2021 calendar year.

Note: The median after-tax income for people with disabilities aged 15 to 64 years old in Calgary ($35,280) and in Alberta ($35,850) is higher than the median after-tax income for people with disabilities aged 15 to 64 years old in Canada ($34,740).

In comparison, the median after-tax income for all Calgarians 15 years and older living in private households overall was $40,000 in 2020.

Median after-tax income in Calgary		
	Population with disabilities (aged 15-64)	Total population (aged 15+)
Median after-tax income	$35,280 (2021)	$40,000 (2020)

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2022, Canadian Survey on Disability, Table 7, accessed using the Community Data Program for the Calgary census subdivision, and Statistics Canada, 2023, Calgary Census Profile 2021 Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001.

VISIBLE MINORITY STATUS AND DISABILITY

Statistics Canada uses the term visible minority as defined by the Employment Equity Act, to refers to "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour." The visible minority population consists mainly of the following groups: South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Latin American, Arab, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean, and Japanese. Statistics Canada has recently been replacing the term "visible minority" with the terms "racialized population" or "racialized groups" to reflect the increased use of these terms in the public sphere.

In 2022, the CSD findings show that there was a smaller percentage of people with disabilities who also had visible minority status, compared to the overall population who had visible minority status (31 per cent compared to 42 per cent).

Visible minority status for those aged 15+ in Calgary				
	Population with disabilities		Total population	
	Total	Per cent	Total	Per cent
Visible minority status	79,450	31%	452,950	42%
Not a visible minority	178,100	69%	614,450	58%
Total population	257,600	100%	1,067,400	100%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022, Canadian Survey on Disability, Table 8, accessed using the Community Data Program for the Calgary census subdivision.

IMMIGRANT STATUS AND DISABILITY

In Calgary in 2022, there were fewer people with disabilities who also identified as immigrants compared to the general population (31 per cent compared to 40 per cent).

Immigrant status for those aged 15+ in Calgary				
	Population with disabilities		Total population	
	Total	Per cent	Total	Per cent
Immigrant status	79,790	31%	425,670	40%
Non-immigrant status	175,440	68%	621,190	58%
Non-permanent status	Data of insufficient quality for publication		20,540	2%
Total population	257,590	100%	1,067,400	100%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022, Canadian Survey on Disability, Table 9, accessed using the Community Data Program for the Calgary census subdivision.
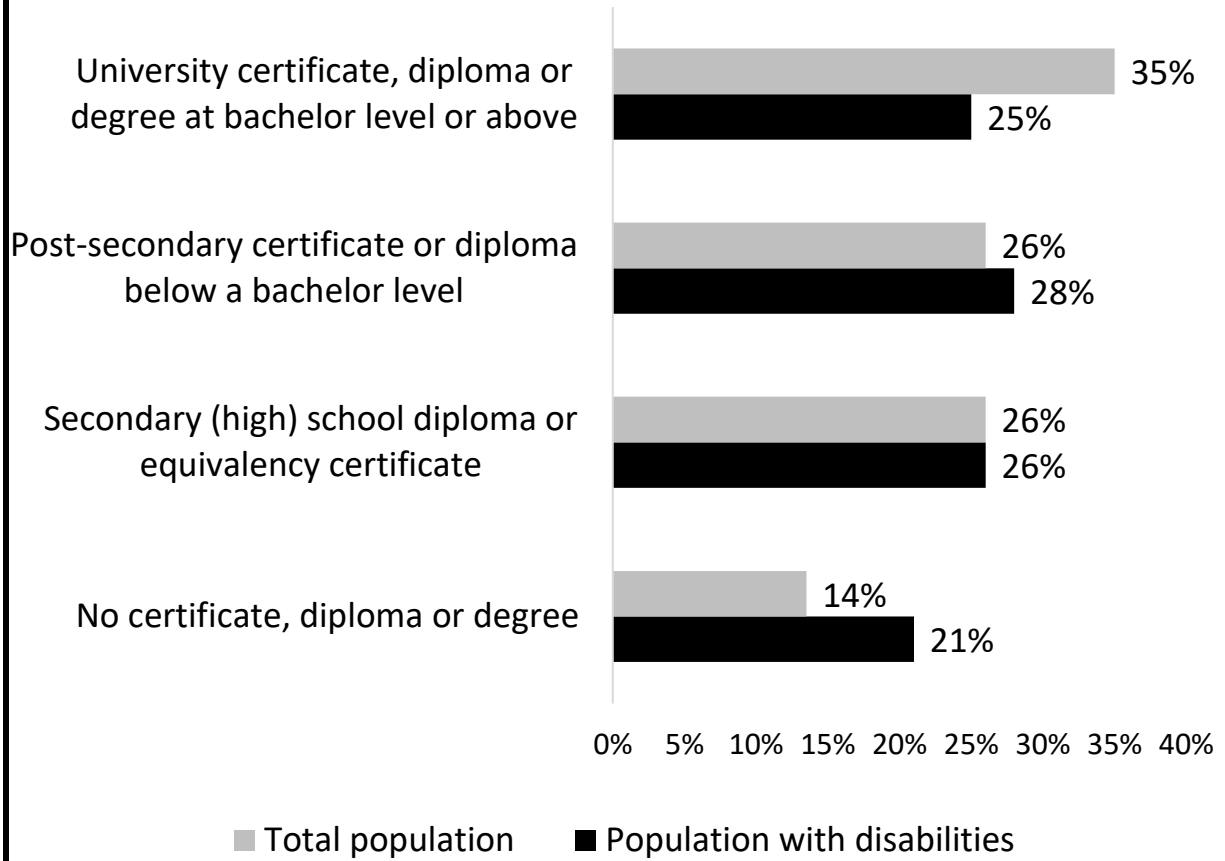
EDUCATION AND DISABILITY

In Calgary in 2022, people with disabilities were more likely to not have a certificate, diploma, or degree compared to the general population (21 per cent compared to 14 per cent). Additionally, people with disabilities were less likely to have a university certificate, diploma, or degree at a bachelor level or above compared to the overall population (25 per cent compared to 35 per cent).

Highest level of education for those aged 15+ in Calgary				
	Population with disabilities		Total population	
	Total	Per cent	Total	Per cent
No certificate, diploma, or degree	53,600	21%	144,100	14%
Secondary (high) school diploma or equivalency certificate	67,900	26%	275,200	26%
Post-secondary certificate or diploma below a bachelor level	71,200	28%	276,350	26%
University certificate, diploma, or degree at bachelor level or above	64,900	25%	371,750	35%
Total population	257,600	100%	1,067,400	100%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2022, Canadian Survey on Disability, Table 10, accessed using the Community Data Program for the Calgary census subdivision.

Highest Level of Education for People Aged 15+ in Calgary, 2022

Education Level	Total population	Population with disabilities
University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above	35%	25%
Post-secondary certificate or diploma below a bachelor level	26%	28%
Secondary (high) school diploma or equivalency certificate	26%	26%
No certificate, diploma or degree	14%	21%

NOTES

This profile contains information from the 2022 Statistics Canada's Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD). The CSD is conducted every five years with the purpose of providing information about Canadians aged 15 and over whose daily activities are limited because of a long-term condition or health-related problem. Statistics Canada intends the results of the CSD to be used to plan and evaluate services, programs, and policies for people with disabilities to help enable their full participation in Canadian society.

The CSD is based on a social model of disabilities. This involves the understanding that disability is the result of the interaction between one's functional limitations and the barriers in one's environment. Statistics Canada explains that "disability is a social disadvantage that an unsupportive environment imposes on top of an individual's impairment."

The total sample size for the CSD was approximately 54,000, with the collection response rate being 61%. The CSD includes people who were 15 years of age or older as of the date of the census in 2021. The census only includes those living in private dwellings; therefore, those living in collective dwellings, such as Canadian Armed Forces bases or the institutionalized population, are not included. The population living on First Nation reserves were also excluded for operational reasons.

The 2022 version of the CSD aimed to prioritize comparability with the 2017 CSD. Note: There was a change in methodology between the 2012 and 2017 CSD surveys, therefore comparison across those years is not recommended.

To read more on the methodology of the CSD, please refer to the following websites: Statistics Canada's Canadian Survey on Disability and Statistics Canada's Canadian Survey on Disability Concepts and Methods Guide.

GLOSSARY

The content in this section is directly from Statistics Canada's Canadian Survey on Disability Concepts and Methods Guide.

Person with a disability	A person with a disability is someone who has a difficulty or impairment due to a long-term condition or health-related problem who also experiences limitation in their daily activities.
	The Canadian Survey on Disability is based on a social model of disabilities, which considers disability to be 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.
	Disability refers to whether or not a person is limited in his or her daily activities according to a prescribed level of difficulty with particular tasks due to a long-term condition or health problem lasting, or expecting to last, for a specified period of time.
	In the CSD, "Disability Screening Questions" (DSQ) are used to evaluate the presence and severity of ten distinct types of disabilities related to a health problem or condition that has lasted or is expected to last for six months or more (the only exception to this is for developmental disabilities where a person is considered to be disabled if the respondent has been diagnosed with this condition).

Combination of answers on the Disability Screening Questions that were used to identify a disability

How much difficulty do you have...?	How often are your daily activities limited by...?				
	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
No difficulty	No disability	No disability	Disability	Disability	Disability
Some difficulty	No disability	No disability	Disability	Disability	Disability
A lot of difficulty	No disability	Disability	Disability	Disability	Disability
Cannot do at all	No disability	Disability	Disability	Disability	Disability

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Survey on Disability, 2022.

Severity of disability	Severity of disability refers to a ranking based on the presence and severity of ten distinct types of disabilities related to a health problem or condition that has lasted or is expected to last for six months or more. The degree of severity increases with the frequency of the limitation and the level of difficulty. The more types of disability a person reports, the higher the global severity class. For each of the 10 disability types, a score is assigned using a scoring grid that takes into account both the intensity of the difficulties (no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or cannot do) and the frequency of the activity limitations (never, rarely, sometimes, often, or always). A global severity score is then derived based on the scores calculated for all disability types. A person's global severity score is calculated by taking the average of the scores for the 10 disability types (i.e., the 10 scores are summed and divided by 10). Consequently, the more types of disability a person has, the higher his or her global score will be.
Type of disability	The CSD collected information on 10 types of disabilities: pain-related, flexibility, mobility, mental health-related, dexterity, hearing, seeing, memory, learning, and developmental. **Seeing disabilities** Persons with a seeing disability are identified as persons whose daily activities are limited because of difficulties with their ability to see. Two questions are used to identify persons with a seeing disability. The first question asked about the level of difficulty a person has in seeing (with their glasses or contact lenses on, where applicable). Then, for those with at least some difficulty seeing, a subsequent question asked how often this difficulty limited their daily activities. **Hearing disabilities** Persons with a hearing disability are identified as persons whose daily activities are limited because of difficulties with their ability to hear. Two questions are used to identify persons with a hearing disability. The first question asked

about the level of difficulty a person has in hearing (with their hearing aid or cochlear implant, where applicable). Then, for those with at least some difficulty hearing, a subsequent question asked how often this difficulty limited their daily activities.

Mobility disabilities

Persons with a mobility disability are identified as persons whose daily activities are limited because of difficulties with their ability to move around, including walking or using stairs. Three questions are used to identify persons with a mobility disability. The first question asked about the level of difficulty a person has with walking on a flat surface for 15 minutes without resting (with the use of an aid providing minimal support, such as a cane, where applicable). The second question asked if they had difficulty walking up or down a flight of stairs, about 12 steps without resting (with the use of an aid such as a cane, where applicable). Then, for those who reported at least some difficulty either walking or with stairs, a third question asked how often this difficulty limited their daily activities.

Flexibility disabilities

Persons with a flexibility disability are identified as persons whose daily activities are limited because of difficulties bending down or reaching. Three questions are used to identify persons with a flexibility disability. The first question asked about the level of difficulty a person has with bending down and picking up an object from the floor. The second question asked if they had difficulty reaching in any direction, for example, above their head. Then, for those who reported at least some difficulty with bending down or reaching, a subsequent question asked how often this difficulty limited their daily activities.

Dexterity disabilities

Persons with a dexterity disability are identified as persons whose daily activities are limited because of difficulties using their fingers to grasp small objects. Two questions are used to identify persons with a dexterity disability. The respondent is

asked first about the level of difficulty they have using their fingers to grasp small objects like a pencil or scissors. Then, for those who reported at least some difficulty, a subsequent question asks how often this difficulty limited their daily activities.

Developmental disabilities
Persons with a developmental disability are identified as persons who have been diagnosed with this condition, regardless of the level of difficulty or the frequency of the activity limitations reported. One question is used to identify persons with a developmental disability. Respondents were asked if a doctor, psychologist or other health care professional ever said that they had a developmental disability or disorder.

Mental health-related disabilities
Persons with a mental health-related disability are identified as persons whose daily activities are limited because of difficulties with an emotional, psychological or mental health condition. Three questions are used to identify persons with a mental health-related disability. The first question asked the respondent if they had any emotional, psychological or mental health conditions. For those who said "yes" to this question, a subsequent question asked how often their daily activities were limited by their condition (when using medication or therapy, where applicable). Finally, for those reporting such a limitation, a follow-up question asked how much difficulty they have in their daily activities when they are experiencing this condition.

Memory disabilities
Persons with a memory disability are identified as persons whose daily activities are limited because of difficulties with ongoing memory problems or periods of confusion. Three questions are used to identify persons with a memory disability. The first question asked the respondent if they had any ongoing memory problems or periods of confusion, excluding occasional forgetfulness such as not remembering where they put their keys. For those who said "yes" to this

question, a subsequent question asked how often their daily activities were limited by this problem (when using medication or therapy, where applicable). Finally, for those reporting such a limitation, a follow-up question asked how much difficulty they have in their daily activities when they are experiencing this problem.

Learning disabilities

Persons with a learning disability are identified as persons whose daily activities are limited because of a self-identified learning difficulty or a learning disability diagnosed by a health care professional. Four questions are used to identify persons with a learning disability. The first question asked respondents if they thought they had a condition that makes it difficult in general for them to learn. Respondents were then asked if a teacher, doctor, or other health care professional ever said they had a learning disability. For those who said "yes" to either of these two questions, a subsequent question asked how often this condition limited their daily activities. Finally, for those reporting such a limitation, a follow-up question asked how much difficulty they experienced in their daily activities because of this condition.

Pain-related disabilities

Persons with a pain-related disability are identified as persons whose daily activities are limited because of pain that is always present or due to periods of pain that reoccur from time to time. Four questions are used to identify persons with a pain-related disability. The first question asked respondents if they have pain that is always present. Respondents were then asked if they had periods of pain that reoccur from time to time. For those who said "yes" to either of these two questions, a subsequent question asked how often this pain limited their daily activities. Finally, for those reporting such a limitation, a follow-up question asked how much difficulty they have in their daily activities when they are experiencing this pain (based on when the respondent is using medication or therapy, where applicable).

Unknown disabilities

Persons with an unknown disability are identified as persons whose daily activities are limited because of any long-term health problem or condition other than the 10 specific types of disabilities identified by the survey (seeing, hearing, mobility, flexibility, dexterity, pain, learning, developmental, mental health and memory disabilities). Two questions are used to identify persons with an unknown disability. First, respondents were asked if they have any other health problem or long-term condition (not already reported) that has lasted or is expected to last for six months or more. Where the respondent said "yes" to this question, a subsequent question asked how often this health problem or condition limited their daily activities (see chart below). The survey does not ask about level of difficulty for the unknown type.

It should be noted that this unknown type of disability is counted only if no other limitation has been reported under the 10 specific types of disabilities listed above.

Document reference: The City of Calgary. (2024). *The City of Calgary Population Profiles – Disability*. https://www.calgary.ca/research/population-profile.html

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