

An analysis of the status of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean

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UNITED NATIONS



**ECLAC Subregional Headquarters
for the Caribbean
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PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION

(Percentages and Absolute Numbers)

Country	Persons with disabilities						Total Population (Absolute)
	Share (%)			Absolute			
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	
Antigua and Barbuda	5.1	4.4	5.7	3 918	1 600	2 318	76 886
Aruba	5.6	5.8	5.4	5 036	2 520	2 516	90 506
Bahamas	4.3	4.0	4.5	12 930	5 933	6 997	302 197
Barbados	4.0	3.8	4.2	9 993	4 532	5 461	250 010
Belize	5.9	6.0	5.9	13 774	6 988	6 786	232 111
Bermuda	4.6	4.2	4.9	2 832	1 265	1 567	62 059
British Virgin Islands	4.8	4.8	4.8	1 107	548	559	23 161
Cayman Islands	4.3	3.8	4.7	1 673	729	944	39 020
Grenada	4.4	4.0	4.7	4 499	2 073	2 425	103 137
Guyana	6.4	6.3	6.6	48 419	23 652	24 767	751 223
Jamaica	6.3	6.2	6.3	163 206	80 187	83 019	2 607 632
Montserrat	4.7	5.0	4.4	202	116	86	4 303
Netherlands Antilles	8.5	8.2	8.6	14 844	6 795	8 049	175 653
Saint Lucia	4.9	4.7	5.1	7 720	3 610	4 110	156 735
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	4.4	4.3	4.6	4 717	2 283	2 434	106 253
Trinidad and Tobago	4.1	4.0	4.2	45 496	22 353	23 143	1 114 772
Weighted Total	5.6	5.5	5.7	340 363	165 153	175 210	6 095 656

Source: ECLAC based on data from the year 2000 Population Housing Census

Overview

- **This number constituted about 5.6% of the total population of the 12 countries for which data were supplied.**
- **The data also indicated that the percentage of women with disabilities was slightly higher than for males.**

Overview

- **Even though very little has been written on disability in the Caribbean, there has been some general information from census data.**
- **Approximately 340,363 persons reported that they had some kind of disability that limited their participation in activities.**

Findings

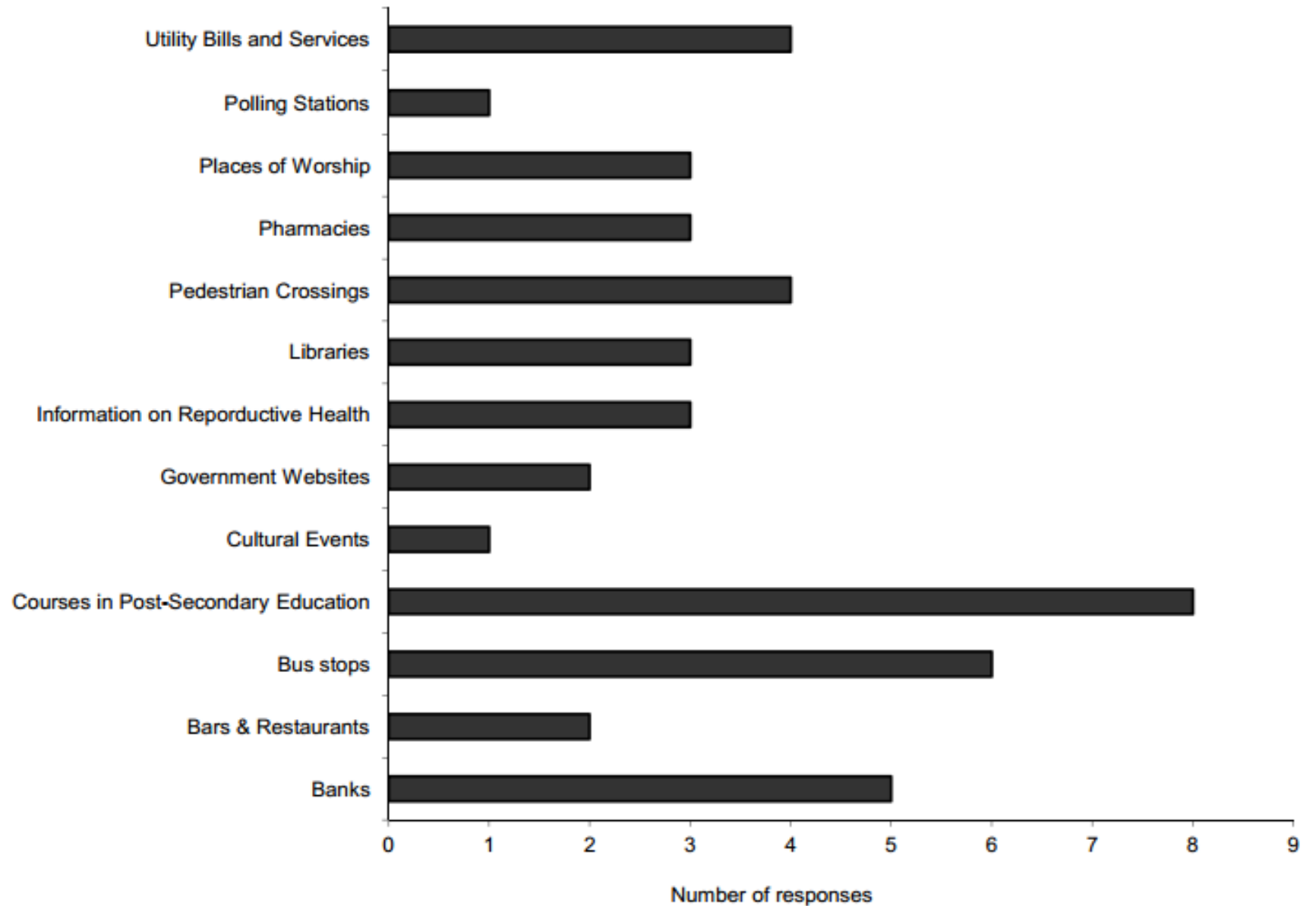
- Countries such as Aruba, the Cayman Islands, Dominica, Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago (50%) promoted access to information and communication to persons with disabilities by providing **computer literacy training and capacity building** for persons with disabilities.

Findings

- **recognition and promotion of the use of sign languages and the use of /standardized sign language.**

- However, with the exception of Nevis, which reported that 100% of the country's government websites and other information were available in an accessible format, respondents generally indicated that no, or very little, government information was available in a format accessible to the blind and visually impaired.

FIGURE 1
PRIORITY AREAS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT AS INDICATED BY ORGANIZATIONS WORKING WITH THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED



Source: ECLAC, on the basis of responses to regional Survey on Disability

CARICOM High Level Ministerial Meeting on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities in the Caribbean

Building a Disability-Inclusive Society For All

Declaration of Pétion Ville, Haiti

December 2013

Determined...to enhance national and regional policies and to strengthen legislative frameworks that promote the social services and protection by which persons with disabilities have the opportunity to achieve their full individual potential and to participate meaningfully in the life of their communities

We agree to support the exploration and provision of the use of assisted technology, particularly information and communication technologies to enhance the access of persons with disabilities to information, education, employment and services

**We resolve to work in *solidarity* and
partnership with Member states
through *regional cooperation* as we
jointly seek solutions to the challenges
faced by persons with disabilities in
the Caribbean region, so as to achieve
the goals of this Declaration**

We affirm with appreciation the indispensable support of the regional and international organizations and partners who are committed to work with us in pursuing this important agenda

We agree to establish a mechanism to ensure biennial monitoring and assessment of progress.

Opportunities

- **Digital switchover**
- **Allocation of future bands and licensing conditions**
- **Regional harmonisation (to achieve economies of scale)**

Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU) position

“...Contiguous spectrum should be allotted in the bands assigned to the broadcast service to allow for the robust delivery of high-quality media content, data and signalling that meets or exceeds the capabilities of current fixed and mobile reception and display devices.”

Thank You.

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