

Measuring disability using the Washington Group questions



Easy read information



**Disability Measurement and Monitoring using the Washington
Group Disability Questions**



What this information is about

The Washington Group was set up by the **United Nations Statistical Commission**.

The Washington Group works with countries to produce better information about people with disabilities.



There are 130 countries around the world that are members of the Washington Group.



You can read more about the Washington Group on this website

www.washingtongroup-disability.com

Why is data and information needed



The **UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities** or **CRPD** for short says that everyone around the world should be included.

Collecting data and information helps countries around the world to know more about

- How many people there are with disabilities
- What the differences are between people with disabilities and people without disabilities

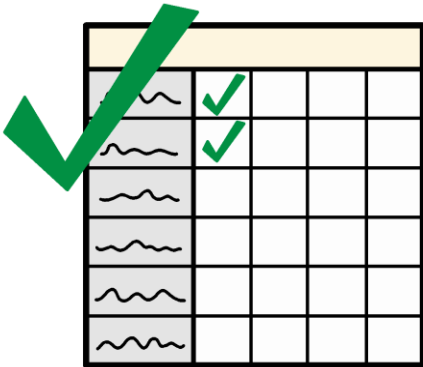


The Washington Group has written useful questions for countries to use when they want to

- find out whether a person has a disability
- learn more about people who have disabilities



What are the Washington Group questions?



The Washington Group **Short Set** are six questions you can use to find out whether a person has a disability.

They ask whether people find it hard to do six things:



1. If a person finds it hard to see – even if they have glasses on
2. If a person finds it hard to hear – even if they use a hearing aid
3. If a person finds it hard to walk or climb steps

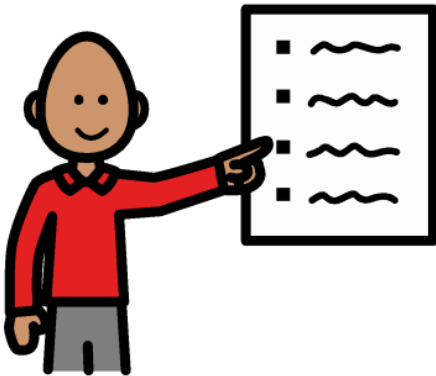


4. If a person finds it hard to remember things or concentrate
5. If a person finds it hard to take care of themselves – for example, having a wash or getting dressed
6. If a person finds it hard to speak to other people or understand other people



You can see exactly what the six questions look like on this website

www.washingtongroup-disability.com



The person has to give one of four answers to each question.

The answers tell us if the person:

- **does not find it hard**
- **finds it quite hard**
- **finds it very hard**
- **cannot do it at all**



If the person finds it **very hard or cannot do** at least one of these six things, then we count them as having a disability.



The Washington Group have also written a longer set of questions called the **Extended Set**. Countries can use these questions if they want to find out if people find it hard to do other things.



They have also written a set of questions to find out if children have a disability. These are called the **Child Functioning Module**.

How to use the Washington Group questions?



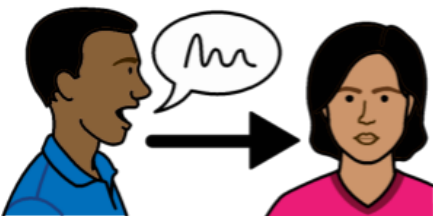
The questions work well and they are quick to ask. It is easy and cheap for countries to add these questions when they do a **survey** or a **census**.



A **survey** is a way to find out information from some of the people in a country.

A **census** is a way to find out information from all the people in a country.

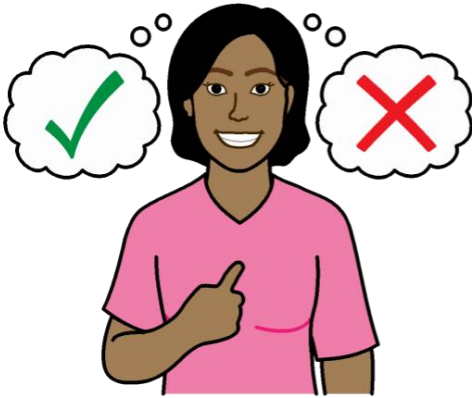
More about asking the Washington Group questions



Not everyone understands disability in the same way.

It is important to ask questions in a good way that everyone understands.

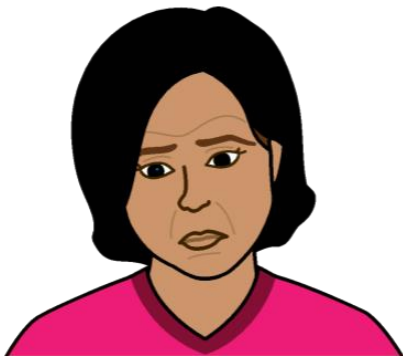
You should **always**



- ✓ Be careful when you change the questions into another language, to make sure they mean the same thing
- ✓ Test the questions out before asking them to everyone
- ✓ Train people who will ask the questions, so they know how to ask them and record the answers
- ✓ Use language that won't upset anyone – we call this **neutral** language.



You should **never**



- ✗ Use the word disability, suffering, or any other word that might offend someone
- ✗ Ask if people have a disability before you decide if you need to ask them these six questions
- ✗ Change the six questions or the four answers without help from the Washington Group



What happens to the answers

The answers are counted up and used to find out more about the health and life of people with disabilities.

For example, the Washington Group questions were used to find out how many adults in the US who had a disability were also working.



They found out that only 7 out of every 20 adults with a disability were working.



But 17 out of every 20 adults without a disability were working.



If you want to ask anything about this leaflet or the Washington Group questions, you can email this address

WG_Secretariat@cdc.gov

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