

Thematic report on the situation of People with Disabilities

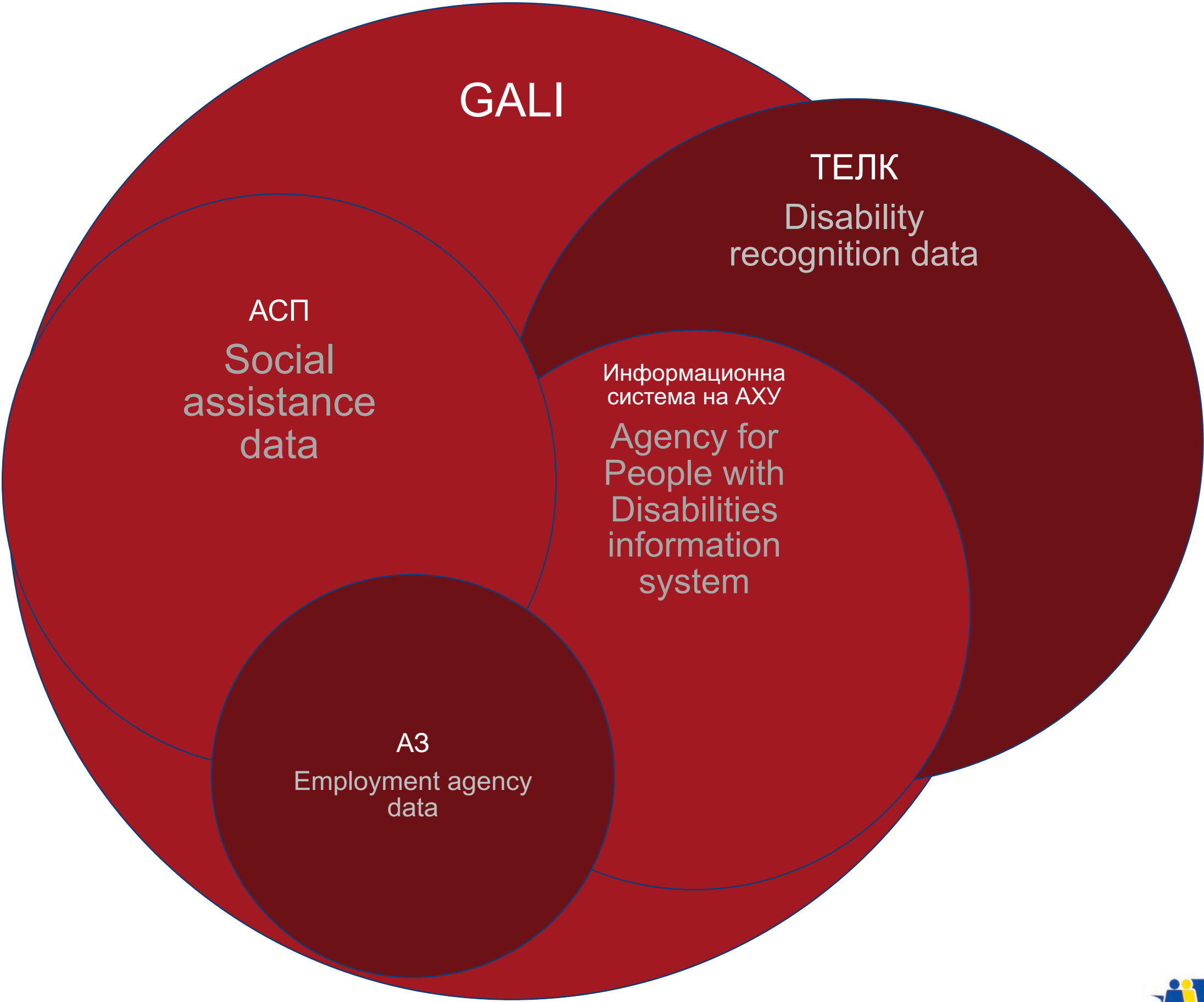
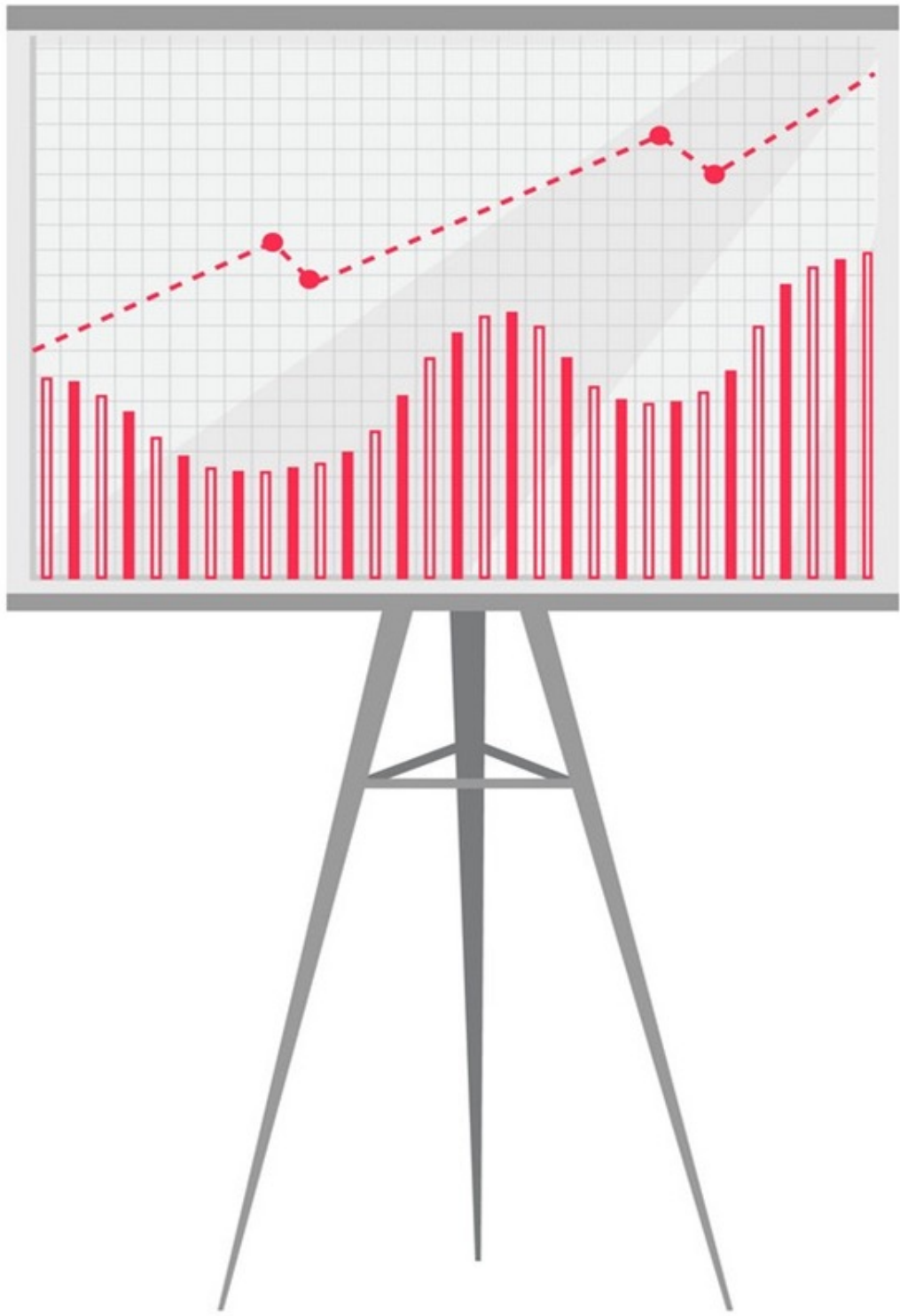
Sofia, 13 September 2022



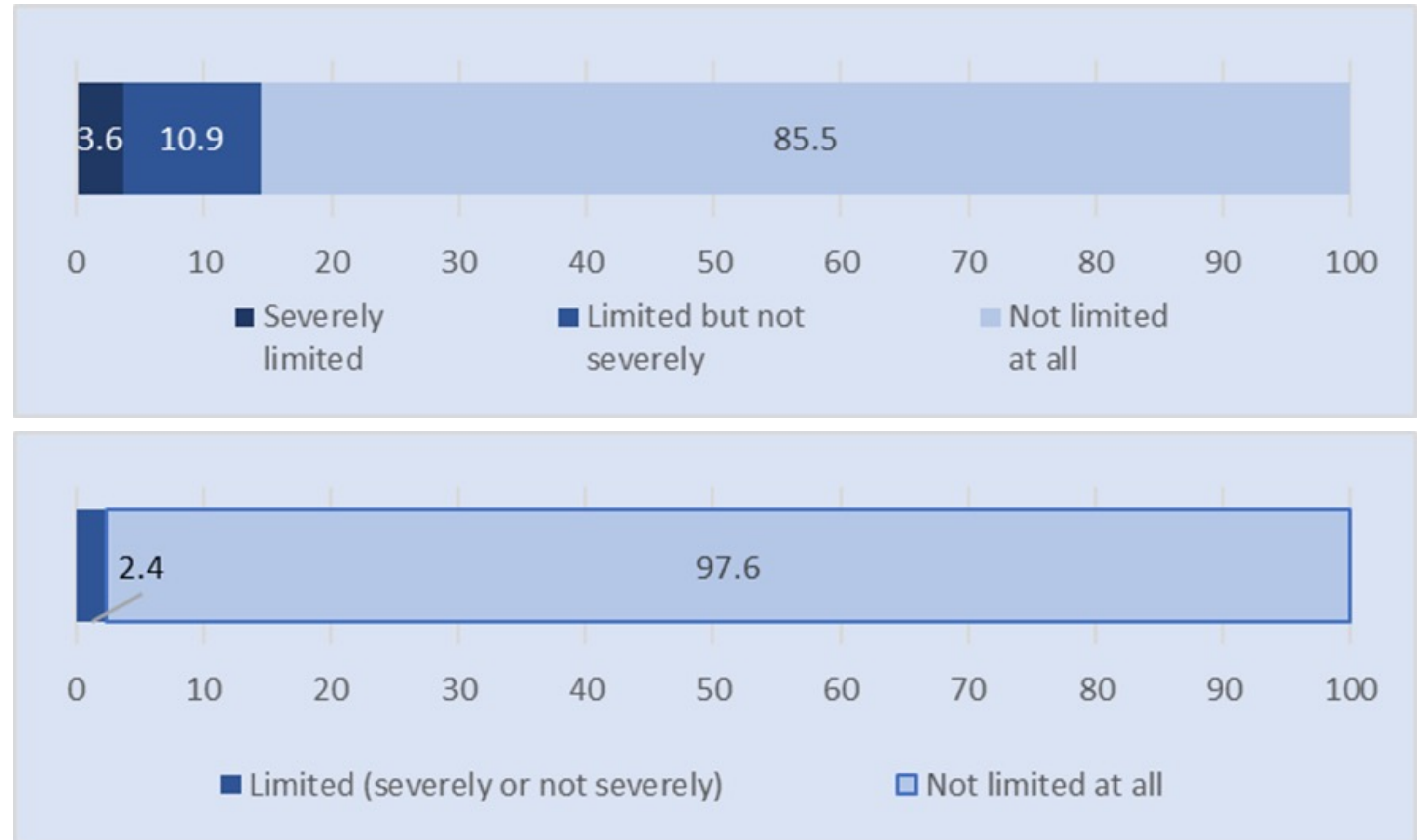
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Definition & data availability



Definition & data availability



Horizontal challenges



Despite the political commitment and the implemented reform, people with disabilities still face a number of challenges in exercising their rights. Four of these are key and affect all major areas of life. Policies have yet to address them.

9 431



As of August 2020, 9,431 elderly and disabled people live in 161 specialised institutions

7 000



As of 2018, more than 7,000 people have been placed under full or partial legal incapacity

Employment and qualifications

Article 27 of the CRPD recognises the right of persons with disabilities to work on an equal basis with others. This includes the right to be able to earn a living through freely chosen or accepted employment in the labour market and in a working environment that is open, non-discriminatory and accessible to persons with disabilities.

The Employment Equality Directive establishes the principle of integrating people with disabilities into employment by prohibiting discrimination in the workplace. It guarantees the right to reasonable accommodation in the workplace as an important condition for equal treatment.

The EU Disability Rights Strategy 2021-2030 and Principle 17 of the European Pillar of Social Rights recognise the importance of acquiring appropriate skills and qualifications in reducing the employment gap between people with and without disabilities.



Employment and qualifications

Highest educational level differs considerably between people with and without disabilities. The share of people with completed upper secondary or tertiary education is close to 80 % among people with no disabilities, but stands at 61.5 % and 57.3 % among people with non-severe and severe disabilities.

77.9 % of people with no limitations aged between 20 and 64 years are involved in any type of employment compared to 48.8 % of people with non-severe disabilities and 42.3 % among people with severe disabilities. Higher level of education remains a major factor for having a job.



Employment and qualifications

People with limitations are much less engaged in paid work (16.9 % of those with severe and 14.1 % of those with non-severe limitations) and are either in (early) retirement (62.2 % and 74.1 %, respectively) or live on disability allowances (16.1 % and 6.4 %, respectively).

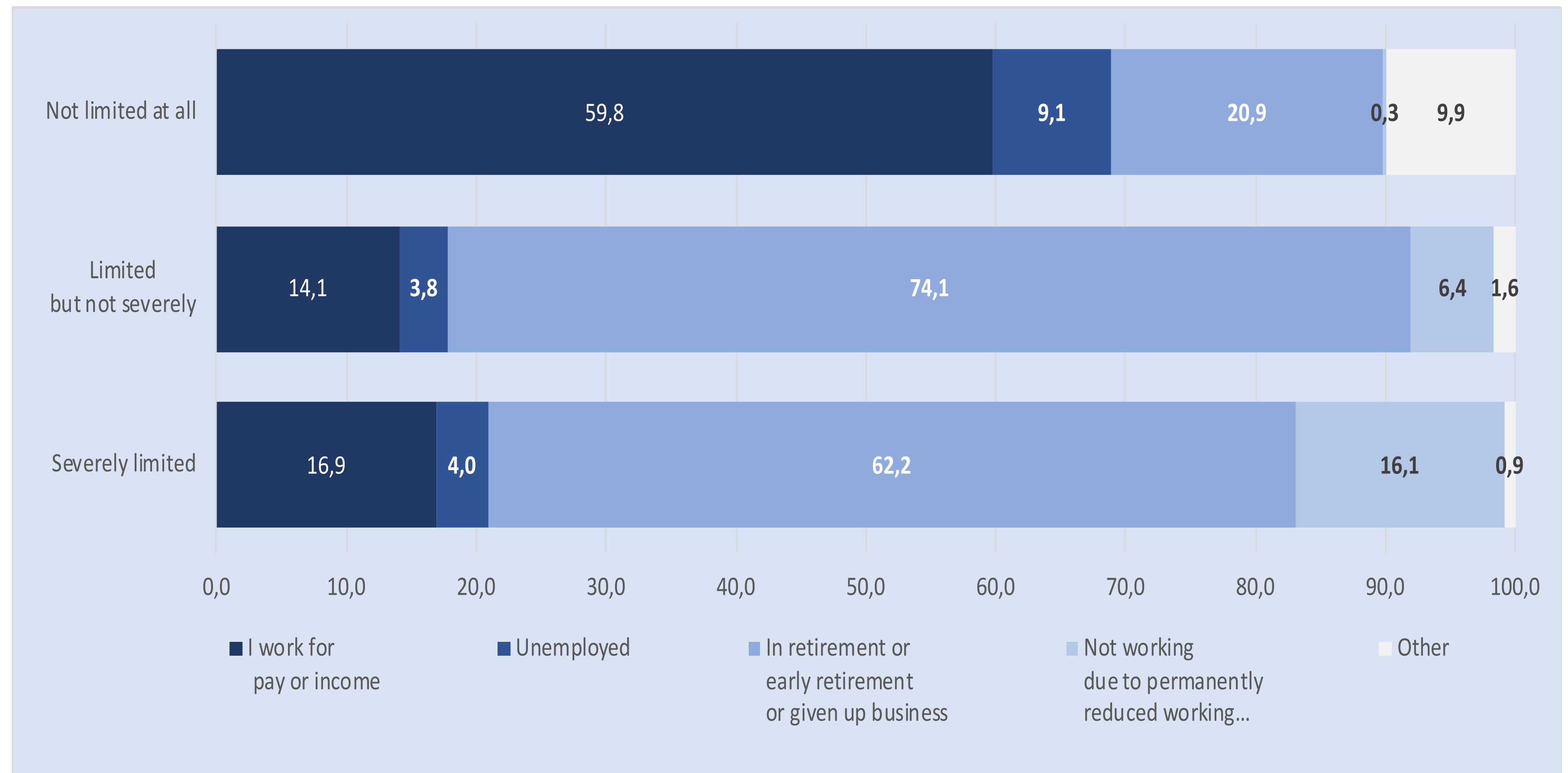
The level of employment is higher among people with disabilities aged 20-24 and decreases with age suggesting that the introduction of inclusive education has produced certain visible results.



Employment and qualifications

'Local Development, Poverty Reduction and
Enhanced Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups'
Programme

Distribution of people
aged 16 years and over
with self-reported
severe or non-severe
long-standing
limitations in usual
activities due to health
problems according to
their employment
status



Source: BNSI/FRA 2020 survey

Article 25 of the CRPD provides that States must ensure that there is no discrimination or differentiation in the quality and coverage of health services on the basis of disability. Specialised disability-related health services must be accessible as close as possible to the communities of people using them

The Disability Rights Strategy 2021-2030 recognises the need for improvement to ensure access to health care for disabled people. It states that reforms should be country-specific and health systems deficits should be strengthened at national level with the support of instruments such as the European Health Union.



Health

The share of people with severe disabilities with unmet medical needs due to financial reasons, waiting lists or travel distances, exceeds 20% while the same share among people with non-severe disabilities is 6.6%, still much higher than among people with no limitations at all where it stands 1.9%. Younger people with disabilities report disproportionately higher level of unmet medical needs.

The share of people, who have not visited a dentist for more than a year, is slightly higher among people with disabilities compared to people with no disabilities.



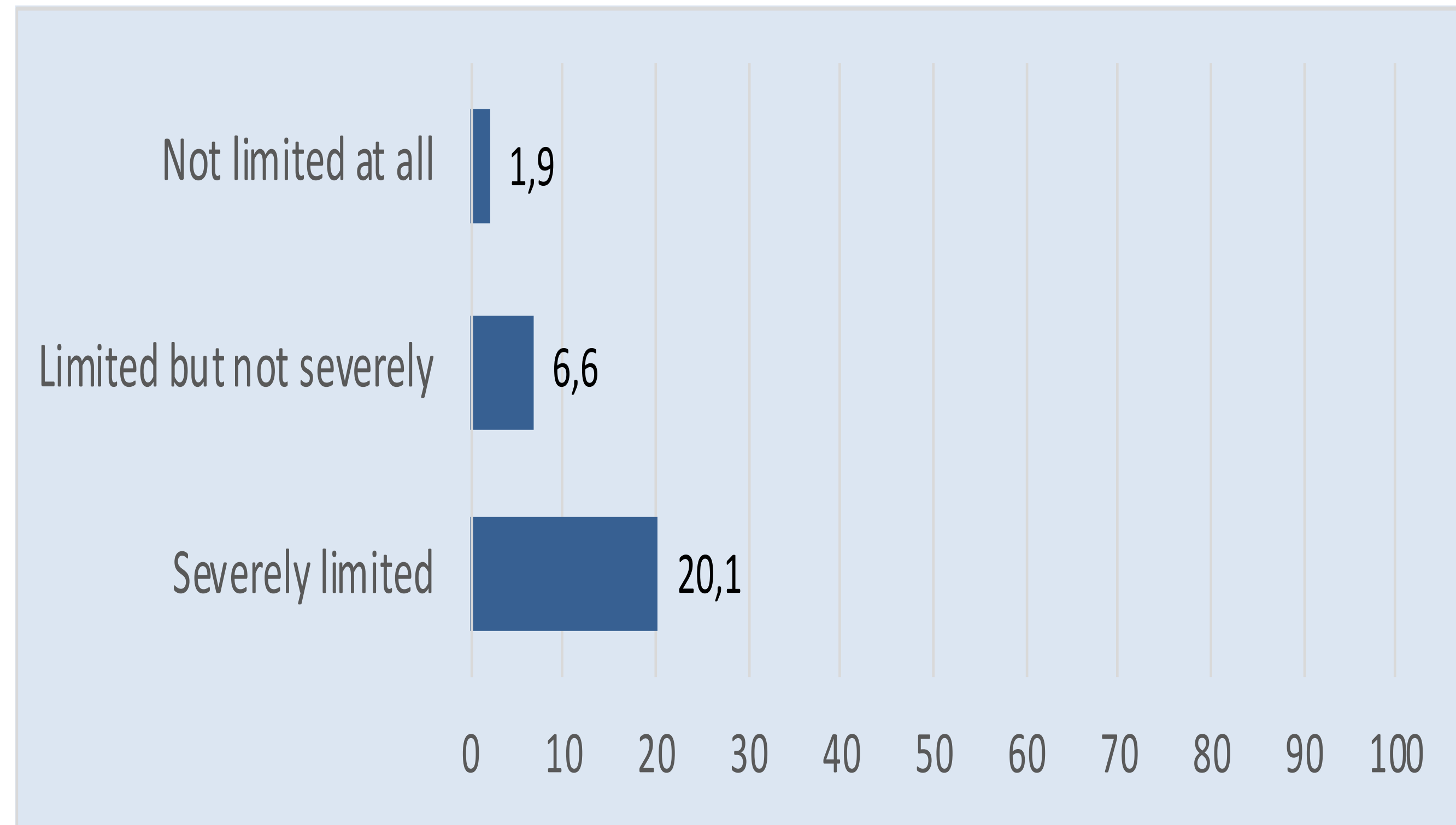
Although people with disabilities visit their general practitioners much more often than people with no disabilities, there are many who have not consulted a general practitioner for more than a year (9.3 % of people with severe and 14.8 % of those with non-severe disabilities).

In terms of in access to specialised healthcare (visits to a medical or surgical specialist), the survey does not register major differences between people with and without disabilities.



Health

Share of people aged 16 years and over with self-reported severe, non-severe or no long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problems reporting unmet needs for medical care for three reasons – 'financial reasons', 'waiting list' and 'too far to travel'.



Source: BNSI/FRA 2020 survey



Article 19 of the CRPD provides that states should guarantee the right of people with disabilities to choose their place of residence, where and with whom they live, and access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services.

Housing

People with disabilities are exposed to a higher risk of living in housing deprivation. About 29.8 % of people with severe limitations and 24.1 % of those with non-severe limitations live in apartments that are too dark, or have a leaking roof and/or damp walls or floors, no indoor bathroom or shower, or no indoor toilet. The corresponding share among people with no disabilities stands at 16.6 %.

The sociodemographic characteristics most often associated with higher risk of housing deprivation are ethnicity, poverty and lower level of education. People with disabilities with lower level of education and those self-identifying as Roma are more often exposed to the risk of living in overcrowding along with people living in urban areas.

The share of people with severe limitations living in households with insufficient number of rooms (33.0 %) is slightly higher than the share of those with no (29.5 %) or non-severe (19.6 %) limitations.

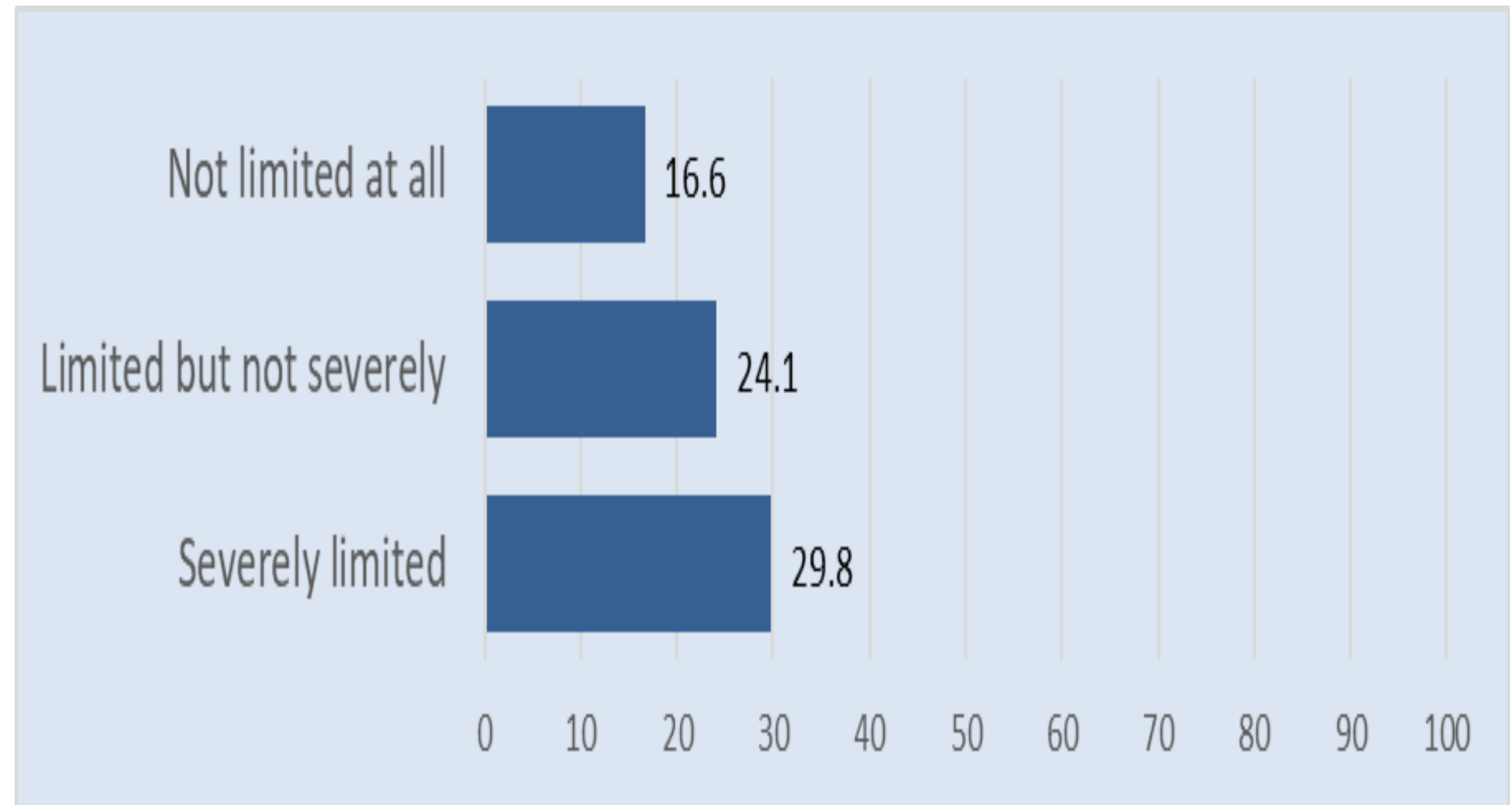


Housing



Housing

Share of people aged 16 years
and over with self-reported
severe, non-severe or no long-
standing limitations in usual
activities due to health problems
living in housing deprivation



Source: BNSI/FRA 2020 survey

Poverty and social exclusion

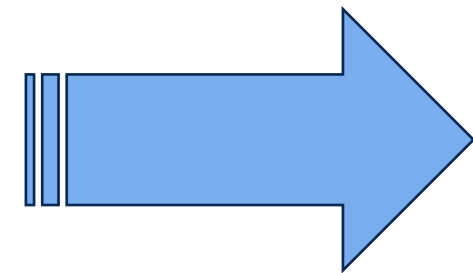
Article 28 of the CRPD recognises the right of people with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families.



The EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030 acknowledges that insufficient labour market participation, insufficient social protection and the extra costs related to disability are the main reasons why people with disabilities and their families are at a higher risk of financial poverty.

Principle 17 of the European Pillar of Social Rights recognises the right of people with disabilities to income support that ensures that they can live in dignity, services that enable them to participate in the labour market and in society, and a work environment adapted to their needs.

49.8% of the people with severe limitations and 46% of people with non-severe limitations live at risk of poverty compared to the 24.3% of people with no limitations.



Age and living with other people confirm to be major determinants of the risk of poverty among both people with and without disabilities. Gender also seems to be a factor as more than half of the women with limitations live at risk of poverty (51.4 %) vis-à-vis 40.2 % of the men. People with disabilities living alone are much more (75.1 %) exposed to the risk of poverty compared to households with 2 to 4 members (25.5 %).



Poverty and social exclusion

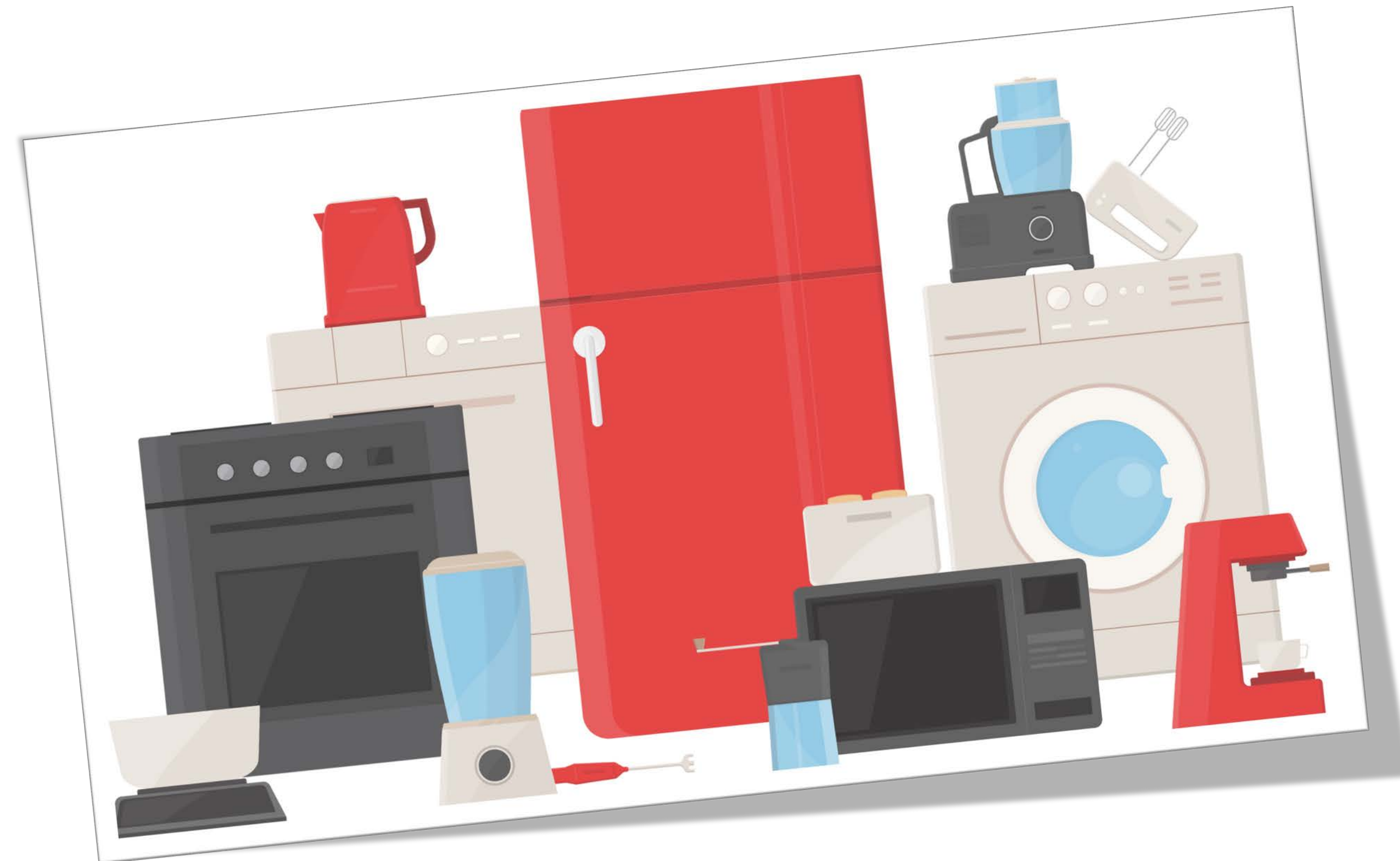
The share of people, who live in households, where one person has gone to bed hungry in the past month because there was not enough money for food, is much higher among people with severe (6.0 %) or non-severe limitations (4.6 %) than the corresponding share among the population with no limitations (3.2 %).



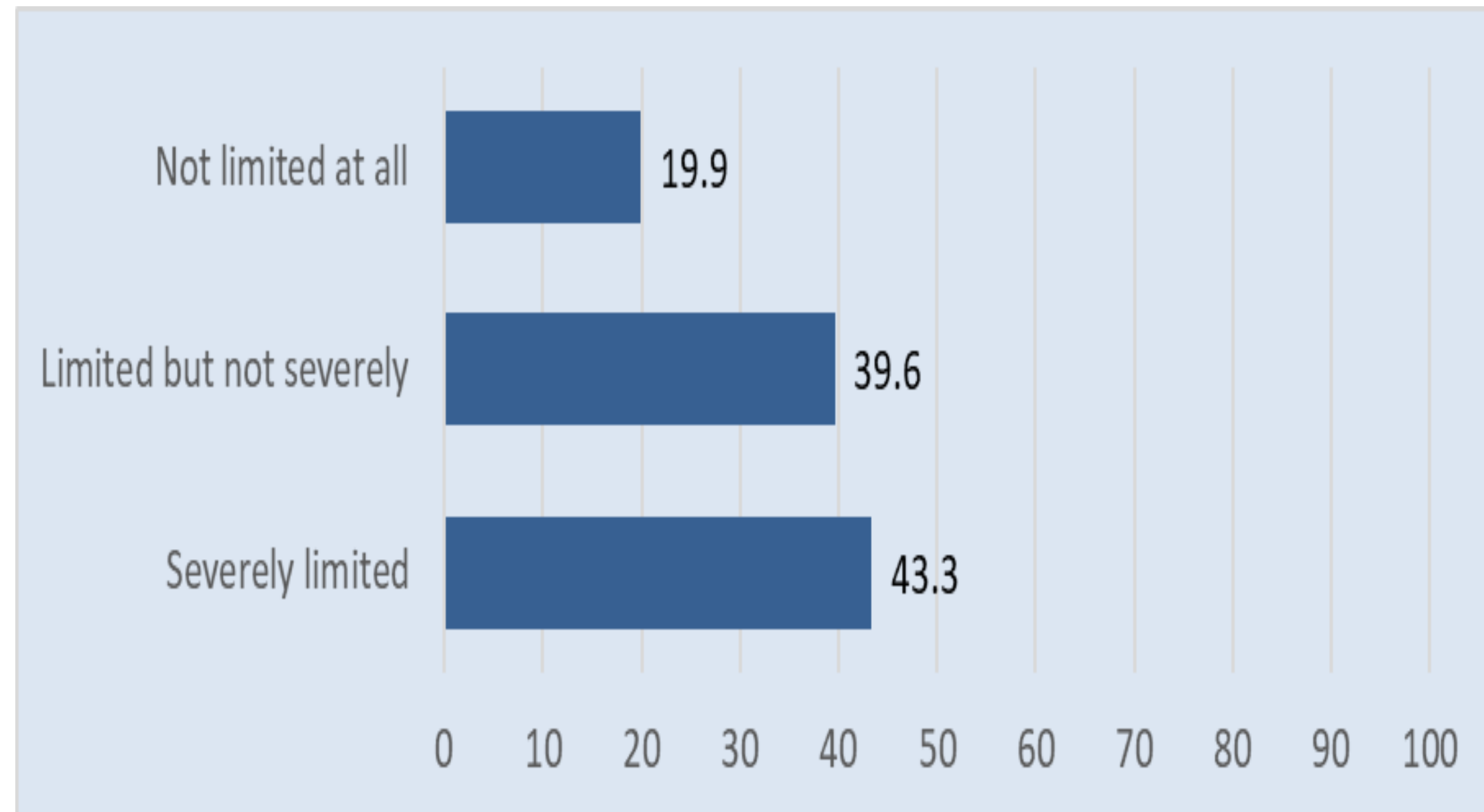
The share of people with long-standing limitations, who do not have a bank account (43.5 % among people with severe limitations and 42.3 % among those with limitations that are not severe), is more than two times higher than the one among people with no limitations (20.7 %).

Poverty and social exclusion

A total of 11.8 % of the people with severe disabilities cannot afford to buy a car or to cover the running costs of having a car. This share falls to 10.2 % for households with non-severely disabled member and to 8.6 % for households with no members with disabilities. The share of people with severe disabilities who cannot afford basic communication services (internet, telephone, television) is also higher than the other two groups.



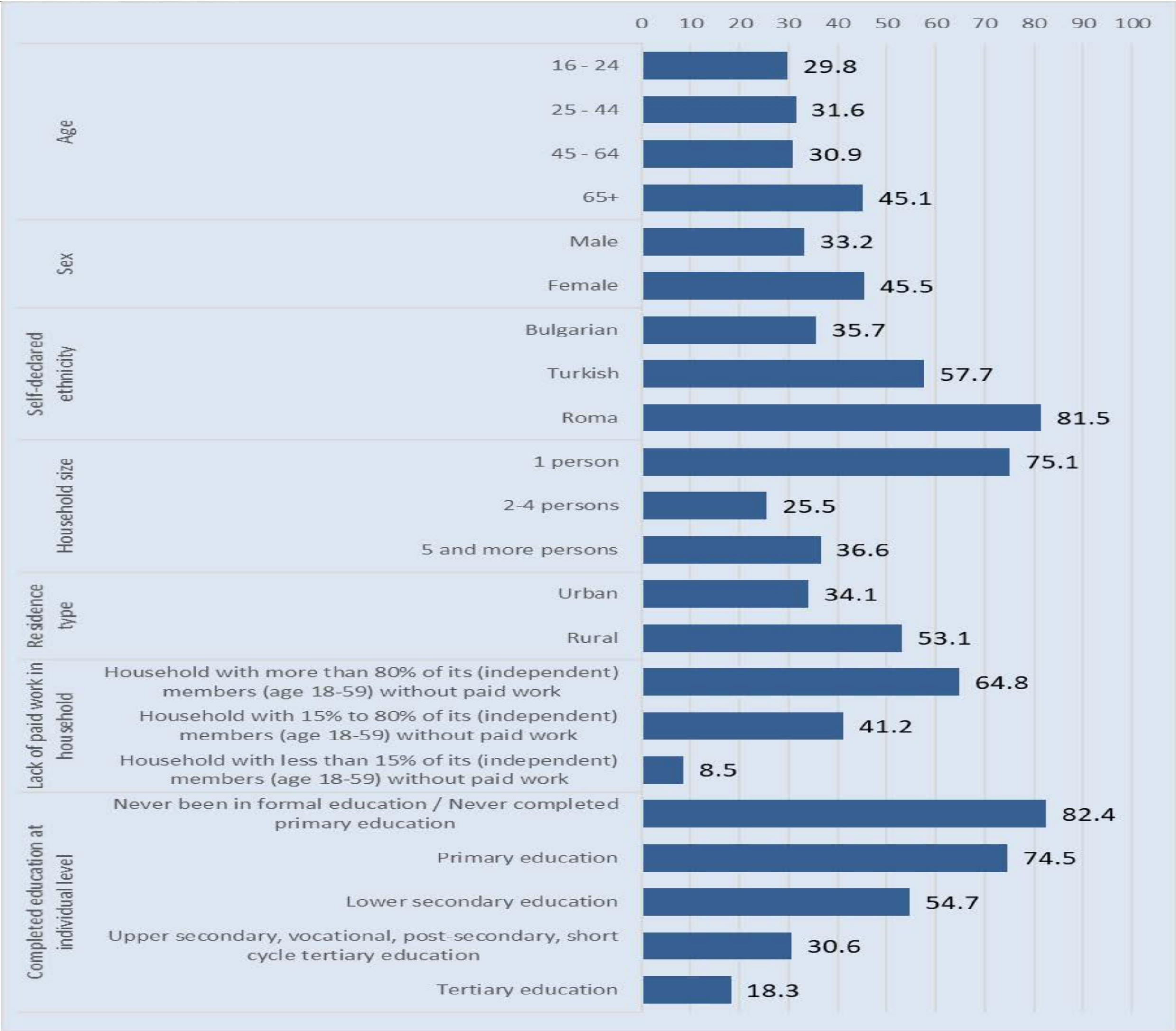
At-risk-of-poverty rate of people
aged 16 years and over with self-
reported severe, non-severe or
no long-standing limitations in
usual activities due to health
problems



Source: BNSI/FRA 2020 survey

Poverty and social exclusion

At-risk-of-poverty rate of people with long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problems, by age, sex, self-declared ethnicity, household size, at-risk-of-poverty rate, residence type, joblessness, and completed education at individual level



Discrimination and social isolation

Equality and non-discrimination are among the general principles in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Article 21 prohibits any form of discrimination based on any ground.

Equality stands out among the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the priorities of the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030.

Article 5 of the CRPD requires that states guarantee equal and effective legal protection for people with disabilities against discrimination on all grounds.



Discrimination and social isolation

Almost one in every four persons with severe limitations (24.1 %) have experienced discrimination in the areas of employment, healthcare, housing, education or public life in the 12 months prior to the survey. The share of those with non-severe limitations, who also felt discriminated, is much lower (7.7 %), but is still twice higher compared to persons with no limitations (3.8 %).

The share of young people with limitations (25-44), who felt discriminated (32.8 %), is much higher compared to the other age groups. In terms of education, the share of people who felt discriminated grows with increasing the level of education, suggesting that people with higher education have higher level of awareness of the anti-discrimination rules.



Discrimination and social isolation

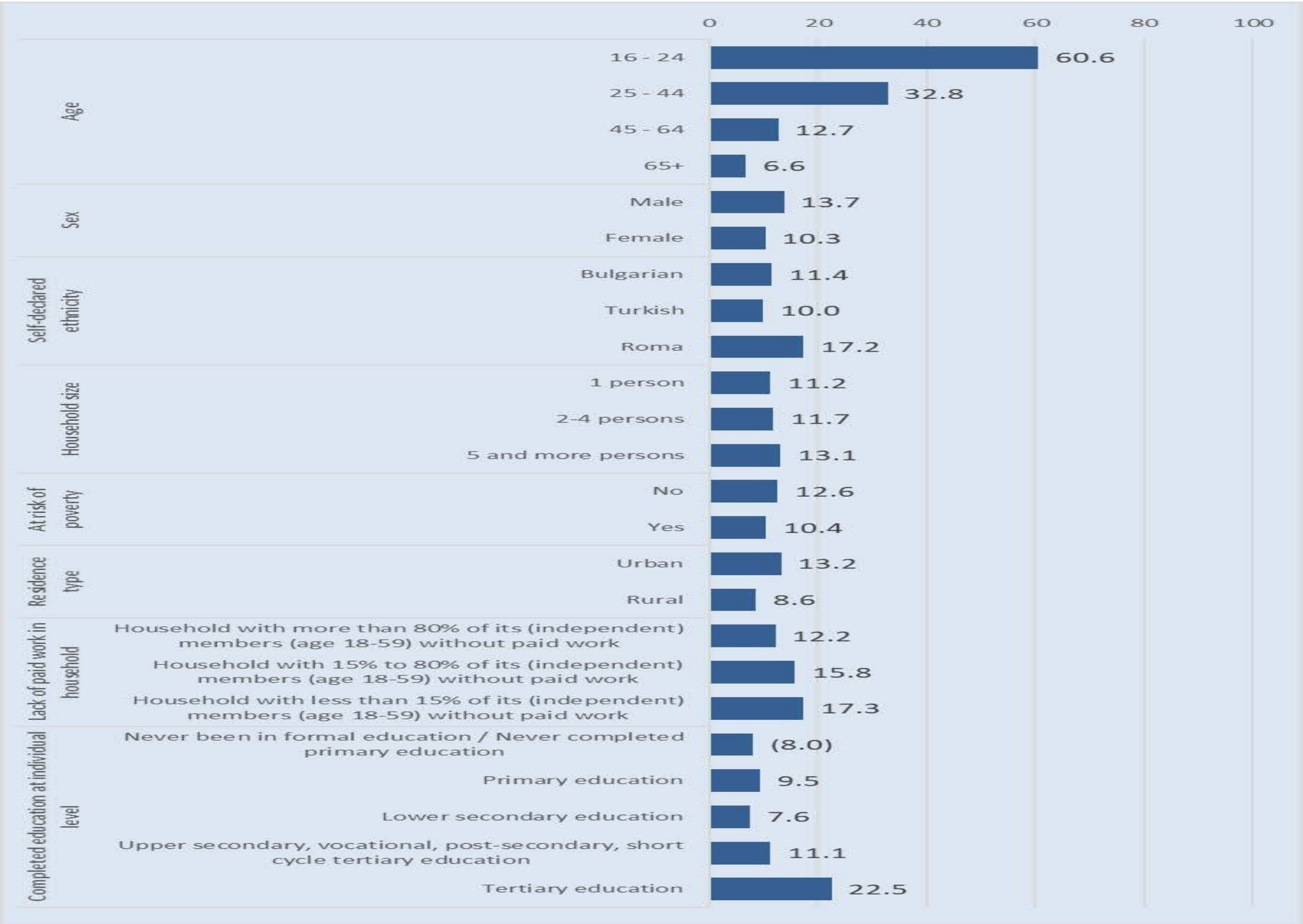
People with disabilities are much less satisfied with their personal relationships. While the share of persons, who are satisfied with their personal relationships, is 90 % among people without disabilities and 80 % among those with limitations that are not severe, when it comes to people with severe disabilities it drops down to about 62 %.



People with disabilities can rely less on their relatives, friends, neighbours and other acquaintances when they need help, compared to people with no disabilities. While the share of people with no disabilities, who believe they cannot rely on such assistance, is about 12 %, it goes up to 18.2 % among people with non-severe disabilities, and to almost 25 % among those with severe disabilities.

Discrimination and social isolation

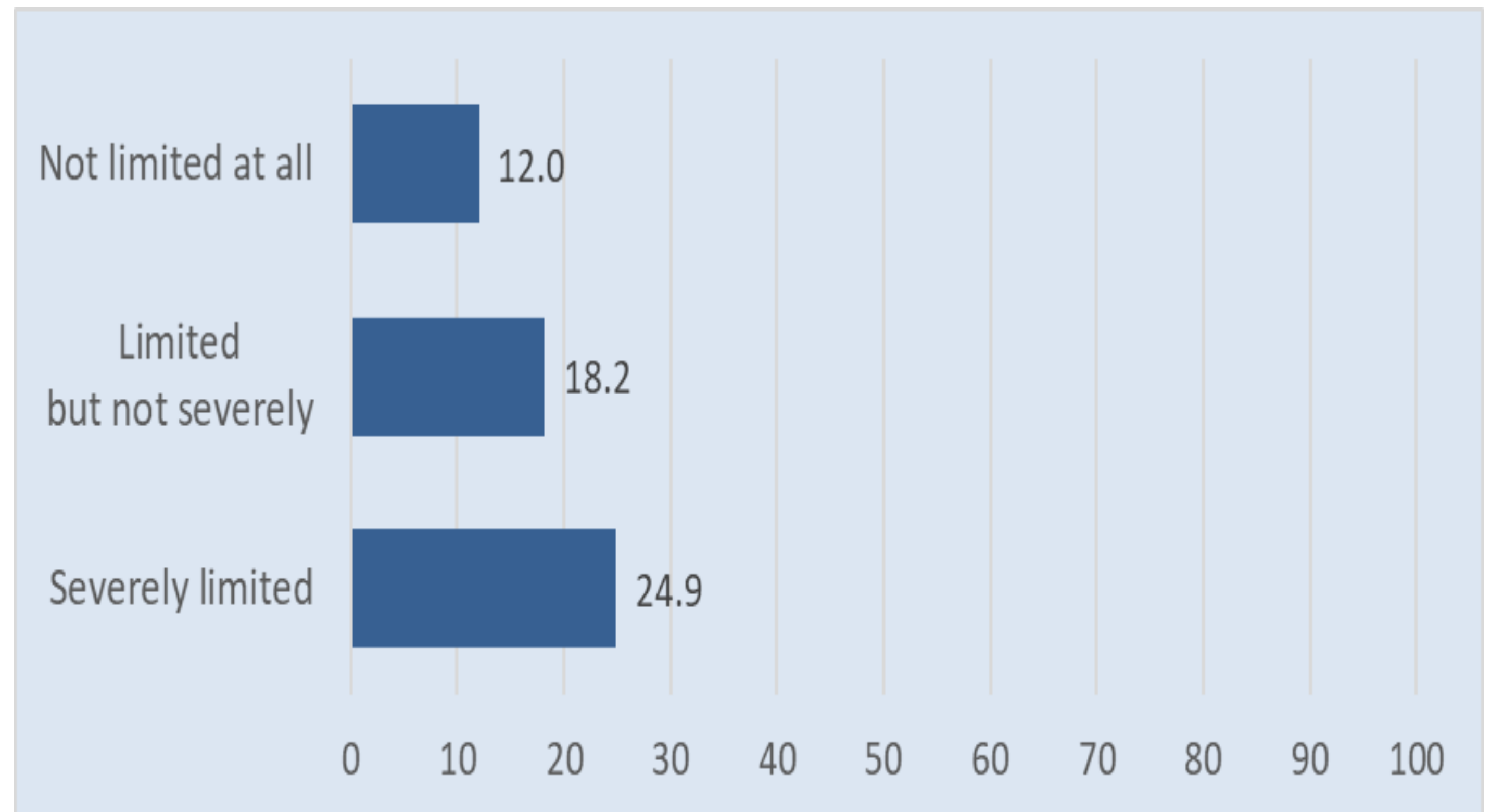
Share of people aged 16 years and over with self-reported severe or non-severe long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problems who felt discriminated against on any ground in any of the areas covered in the survey in the 12 months before the survey, by age, sex, self-declared ethnicity, household size, at-risk-of-poverty rate, residence type, joblessness intensity, and completed education at individual level



Source: BNSI/FRA 2020 survey

Discrimination and social isolation

Share of people aged 16 years and over with self-reported severe, non-severe or no long-standing limitations in usual activities due to health problems who think they cannot get help from relatives, friends, neighbours or other people they know if they need other than financial help



Source: BNSI/FRA 2020 survey



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Thank you!

