



# What about health? What income measures of poverty do not reveal

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# Poverty

- Complex and Multidimensional
  - Not just a state of low income
  - Concerned with freedom, and the capacity to achieve what one desires
  - Income measures of poverty limits what can be measured
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## Income Measures of Poverty

- Poverty Lines – an amount assumed to be the minimum income required to avoid poverty
  - Utilised in this presentation:
    - 50% of the median income poverty lines
    - OECD-modified equivalence scale
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## Methods

- Constructing the income poverty line
  - Equivalence score =  $1 + [(number\ of\ individuals\ in\ income\ unit\ aged\ over\ 15 - 1) \times 0.5] + (number\ of\ individuals\ in\ the\ income\ unit\ aged\ 15\ and\ under \times 0.3)$
  - Equivalised income = Total weekly income / Equivalence score
  - 50% of the median income = median income  $\times$  0.5
  - Poverty line for income unity type =  $(0.5 \times Median\ Income) \times Equivalence\ Score$
  - Poverty: Equivalised Income  $<$  Poverty Line
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# Results

Disability and long term health condition status of those in income poverty

	<b>Observations in SDAC</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>% of those who are in poverty</b>
<b>Has a disability</b>	578	291 588	19.5
<b>Has a long- term health condition</b>	1 245	648 015	41.9



# Results

## Limitations amongst those in income poverty with a disability

	<b>Observations in SDAC</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>% of those who are in poverty with a disability</b>
<b>Has an employment restriction</b>	223	110 454	68.1
<b>Has a self care limitation</b>	152	76 397	26.2
<b>Has a mobility limitation</b>	352	181 784	62.3
<b>Has a communication limitation</b>	123	66 118	22.7



# Results

**Accomplishments in the past four weeks for those who are in income poverty and have a disability**

	<b>Observations in SDAC</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>% of those who are in poverty with a disability</b>
<b>Accomplished less than would like because of emotional problems</b>	150	77 594	30.4
<b>Accomplished less than would like because of physical health</b>	228	115 889	45.4



## Discussion

- Income measures of poverty do not reveal all the layers of disadvantage
  - Often a failure to see ill health as a part of poverty
  - Ill health constrains opportunities in a similar way that low income does
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## Conclusions

- Need a poverty measure which captures multiple dimensions of disadvantage – i.e ill health and disability
  - Ill health should be seen as a part of poverty
  - This will allow appropriate policy responses to address poverty
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