

# **Demographic, social, and economic characteristics among the disabled and non-disabled elderly in Puerto Rico, 2007**

Vivianna Margarita De Jesús Monge, M.Sc.

University of Puerto Rico  
University of Salamanca, Spain

## **Introduction**

- ∞ Very few studies had taken into account the Puerto Rico's disabled older population, specifically the differences between the disabled and non-disabled elderly.
- ∞ Having a disability and being an elder could place them in a greater risk of living in more difficult conditions, compared to the elderly without a disability.

## Objectives

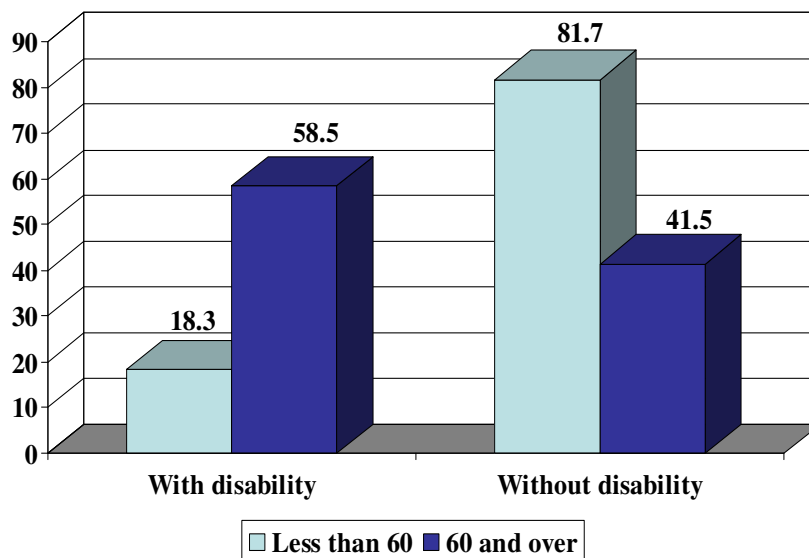
- ∞ Compare the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of the disabled and non-disabled elderly.
- ∞ Describe the relationship between older age groups (60-69, 70-79, 80 and over) and different types of disability.

## Methodology

- ∞ The analysis realized was descriptive.
  - ∞ Crosstabulations
  - ∞ Descriptive statistics
- ∞ The studied population is the 60 years and over persons living in households in Puerto Rico in 2007.
- ∞ 2007 Puerto Rico Community Survey Sample was used.

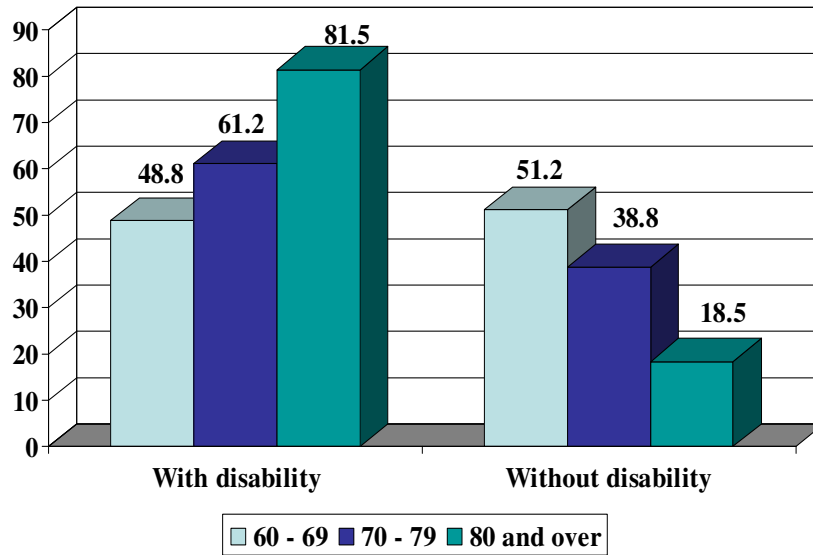
## Results

**Figure 1. Percent distribution of age groups by disability status**

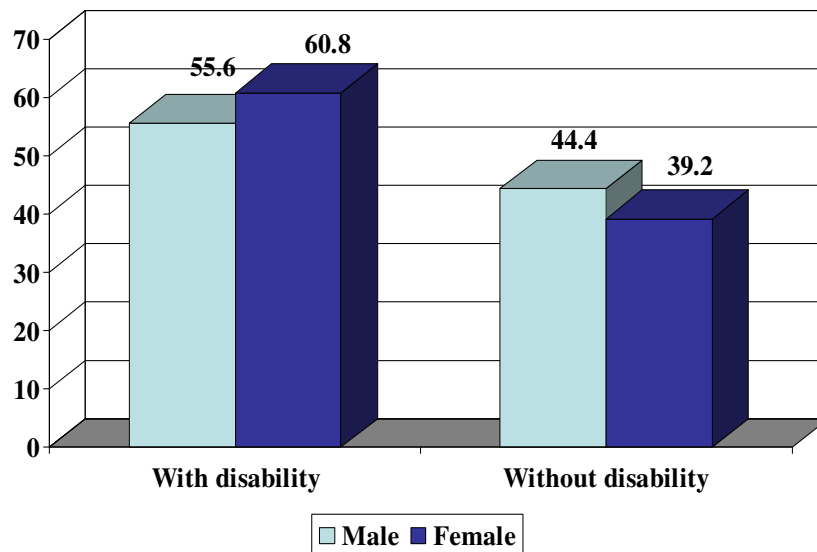


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**Figure 2. Percent distribution of elderly age groups by disability status**

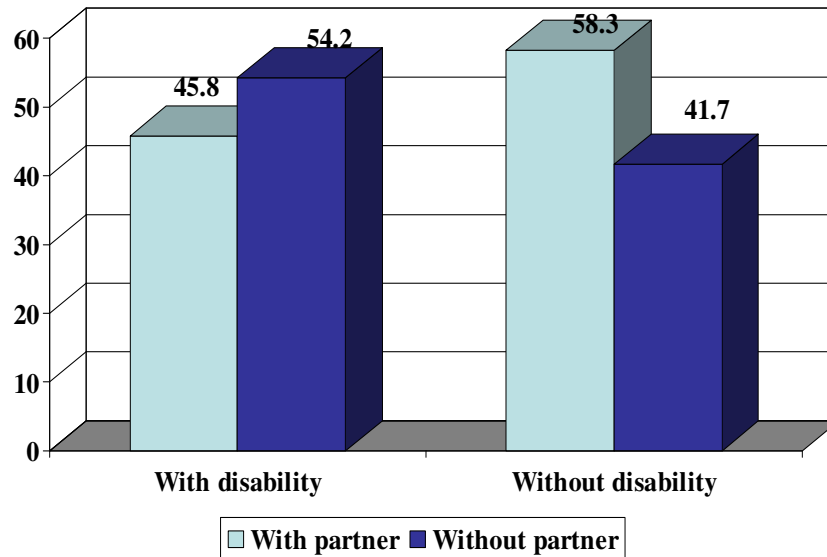


**Figure 3. Percent distribution of sex by disability status**

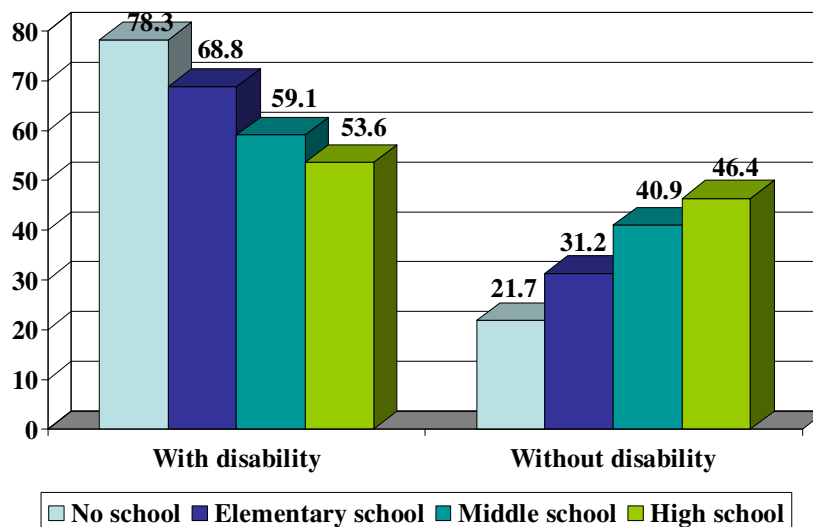


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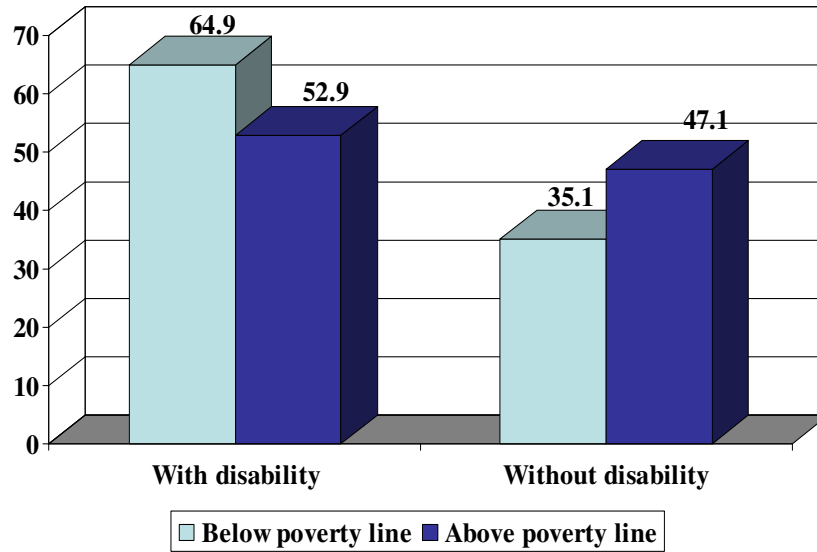
**Figure 4. Percent distribution of marital status by disability status**



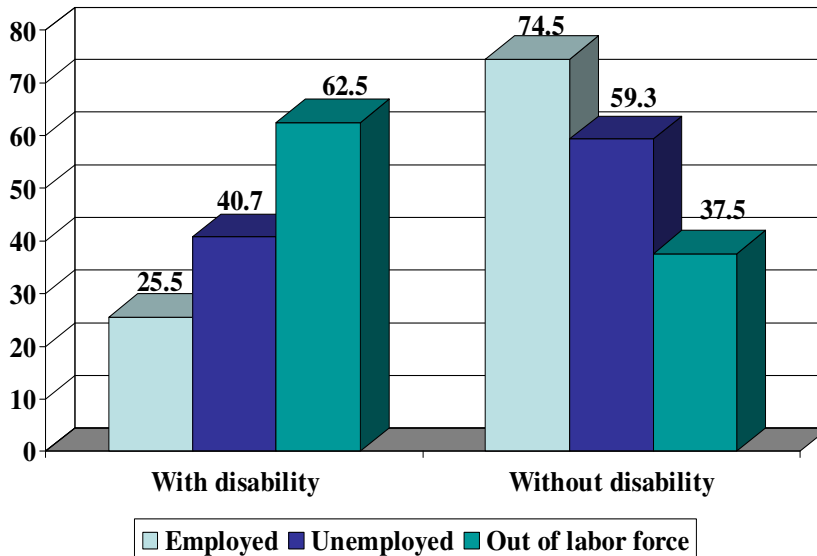
**Figure 5. Percent distribution of educational attainment by disability status**



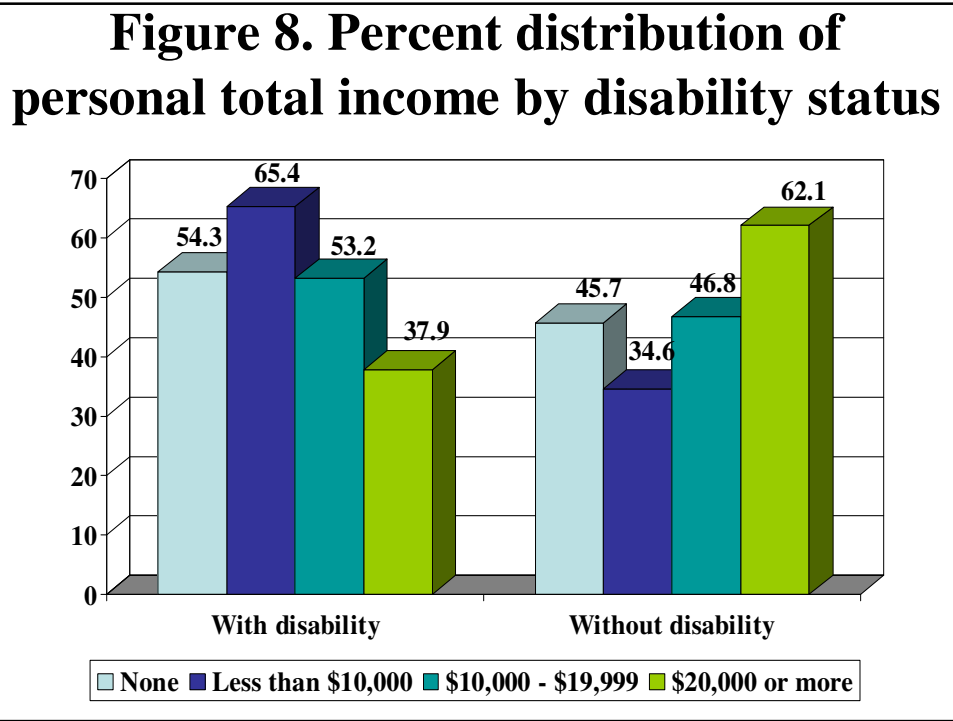
**Figure 6. Percent distribution of poverty status by disability status**



**Figure 7. Percent distribution of employment status by disability status**



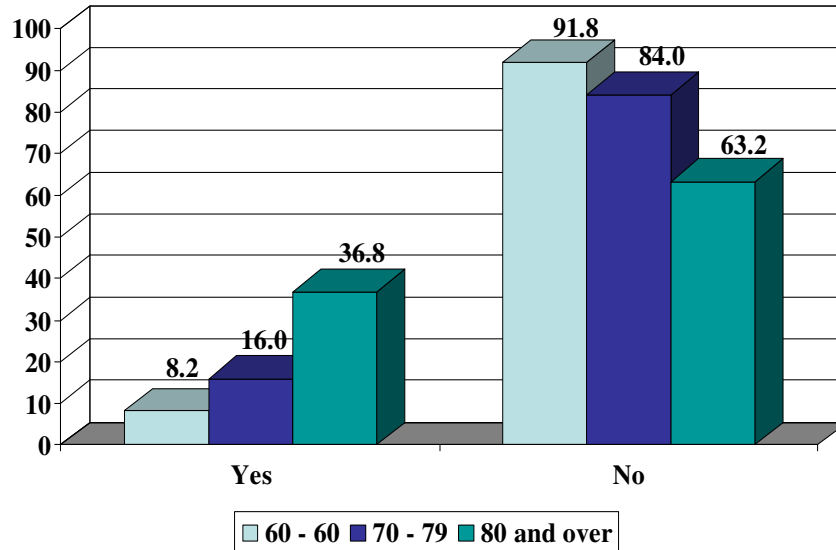
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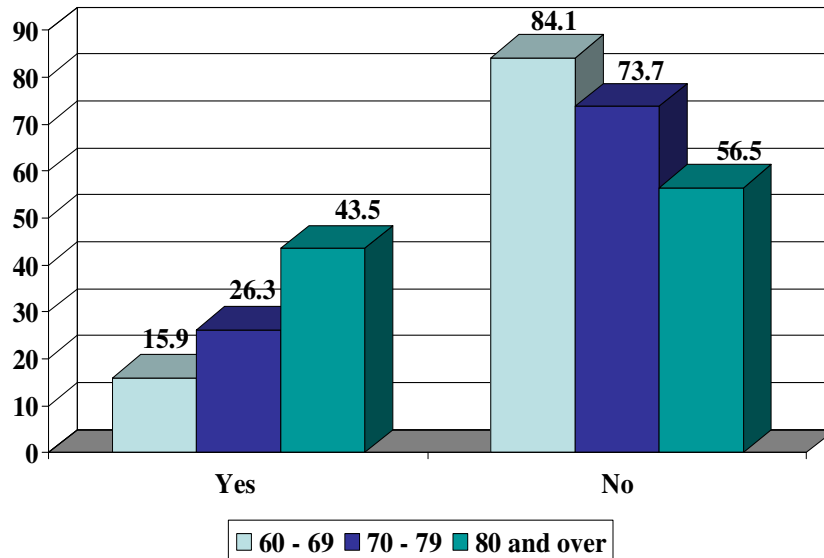
**Figure 9. Median incomes**

	With disability	Without disability
Social Security income	\$5,185.61	\$5,083.94
Personal total income	\$6,609.12	\$8,541.01

**Figure 10. Percent distribution of elderly age groups by difficulty dressing**

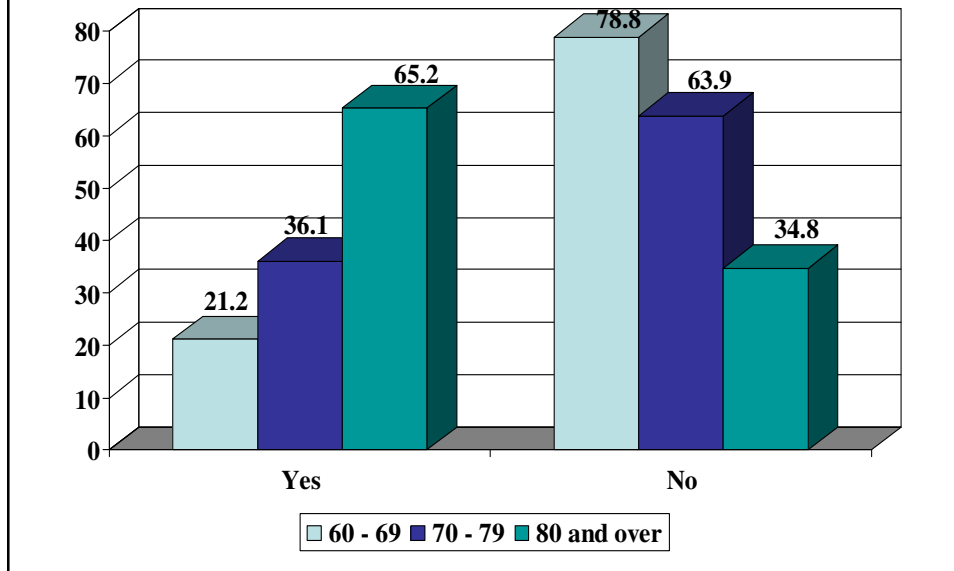


**Figure 11. Percent distribution of elderly age groups by vision or hearing difficulty**

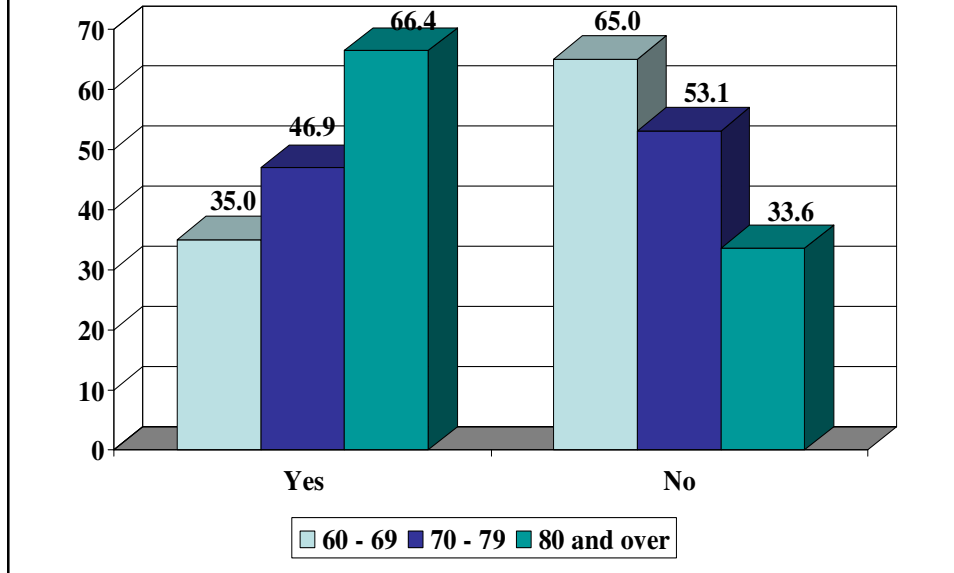




**Figure 12. Percent distribution of elderly age groups by difficulty going out**

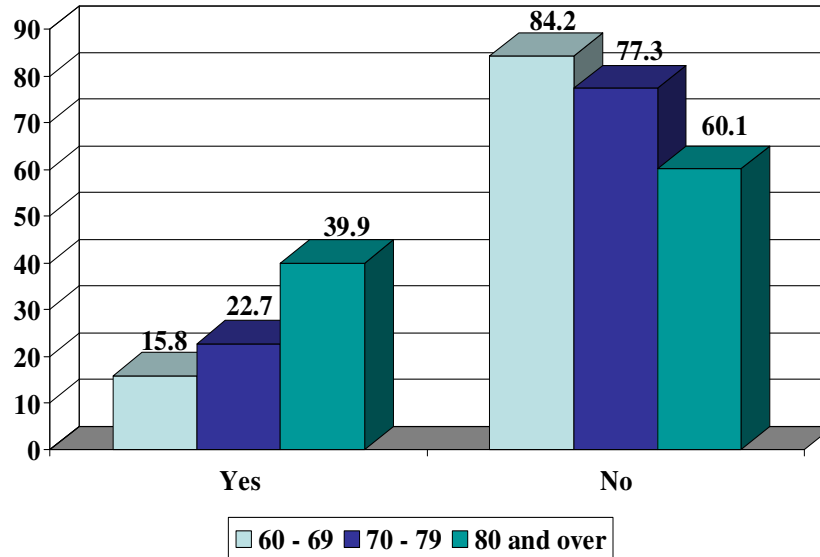


**Figure 13. Percent distribution of elderly age groups by physical difficulty**

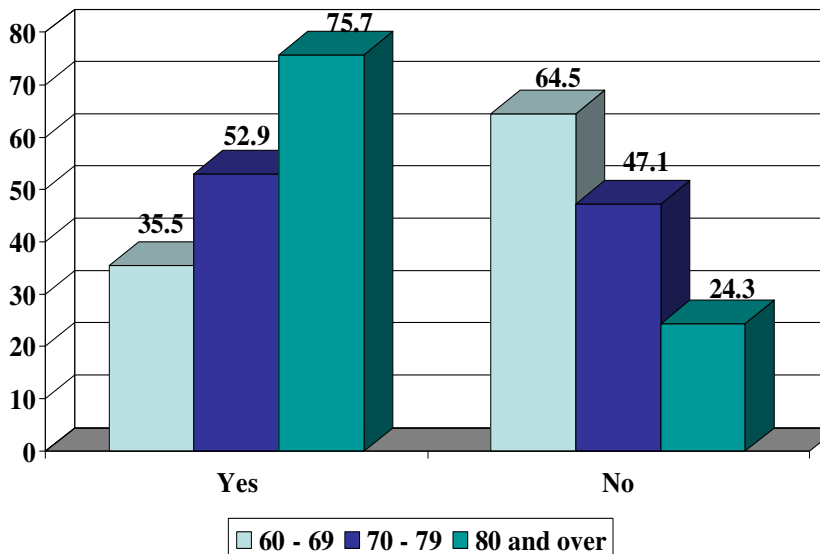


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**Figure 14. Percent distribution of elderly age groups by difficulty remembering**



**Figure 15. Percent distribution of elderly age groups by difficulty working**



## Conclusions

- ∞ With regard to demographic characteristics, disability in the elderly is related to being older and female.
- ∞ As for social characteristics, disability in the elders is related to not having a partner (divorced, widowed, separated, and never married) and lower education.

## Conclusions (cont.)

- ∞ With regard to economic characteristics, disability in the elderly is related to living below the poverty level, being out of the labor force, and with lower income.
- ∞ For every type of disability (difficulty dressing, working, remembering, and going out and physical and vision or hearing difficulty), as the age increased, the percent of elderly who reported having disability increased.

## **Recommendations**

- ∞ Further research to explore the relationship between disability status and health coverage.
- ∞ Update the results with the recently available 2008 Puerto Rico Community Survey Sample.