**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISABILITY AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS IN CANADA**

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**Objectives:** People with disabilities often have unique experiences in their lives that those without a disability do not encounter. Acknowledging that there are differences in the lives of people with disabilities has raised the question of whether or not a difference exists in employment statuses for those with and without disabilities.

**Methods:** Canada’s General Social Survey (the GSS) surveyed Canadian’s 15-years of age or older on their experience with victimization. For the purpose of this research, the age range is limited to 25-74-years of age (N = 26,008). Controlling for age and education, linear regression has been performed to examine the association of a positive or negative disability status (Yes [positive] = 7,063, No [negative] = 18,569) on the time spent employed. In addition to the linear regression, the impact of gender on this association is examined for interaction effects.

**Results:** Preliminary findings support the hypothesis that individuals with a disability work less than their able-bodied counterparts (B = -3.046 when p < 0.05). However, the interaction of gender and disability seems to suggest that disabled females spend 2.202 works more per 12-month period than disabled males (B = 2.202 when p < 0.05). Within the same model as the disability-gender interaction effect, a positive disability status results in 4.047 less weeks employed than a negative disability status, and able-bodied females work 1.836 weeks less than their male counterparts. The analysis is still in progress.

**Discussion:** Further interpretation of the data is needed at this point in the research process. However, preliminary findings suggest a significant association between disability, gender, and employment status. However, the dataset available is from 2014, and may not be representative of the current labor market.

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