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Project Title

Assistive device use and its impact on social participation in Canada

Project Summary

The Canadian population is aging. As we age, we may experience challenges to our physical function. As a result, these challenges may prevent us from engaging in social activities. Using assistive devices may allow us to continue to take part in activities that contribute to the quality of our lives. But, not everyone who could benefit from an assistive device actually uses one. Moreover, we do not have a good understanding of who uses (or do not use) assistive devices. In our proposed study, we will analyze data from over 50,000 Canadians (45 years old and over) who are enrolled in the CLSA in order to 1) describe the characteristics of people who use and do not use assistive devices, 2) describe unmet needs in terms of device use, and 3) examine whether using assistive devices helps people to maintain social participation.

Keywords

Assistive Technology, Disability, Aging, Social Participation, Cognitive Functioning