

How many disabled people are there in Italy? From estimates to projections

Quanti Sono i Disabili in Italia? Dalle Stime alle Proiezioni

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Riassunto: Obiettivo del lavoro è calcolare le proiezioni del numero di persone disabili a partire dalle proiezioni della popolazione, basate sull'ipotesi centrale, e dai tassi di disabilità disponibili più recenti (1994 e 2000). Le proiezioni sono state fatte utilizzando tre diverse stime dei tassi di disabilità per sesso e classe di età: la prima utilizza i dati relativi all'ultimo anno disponibile (2000); la seconda utilizza i dati delle due ultime indagini (1994 e 2000) e la stima dei tassi specifici è fatta tramite l'incremento medio geometrico; la terza, intermedia alle prime due, utilizza la media geometrica dei tassi dei due anni considerati. Gli ultimi due procedimenti tengono conto, in parte, della dinamica osservata nei due anni. I risultati mostrano un andamento crescente nel tempo, più forte sotto il primo e il terzo scenario e più moderato nel secondo.

Keywords: Disability rate, Number of people with disability, Projection

1. Objective

The aim of this paper is to compute the projections of disability rates and the number of people with disability up to year 2030. Projection results are shown by 5 years starting from the last disability rates available (2000).

2. Projection method

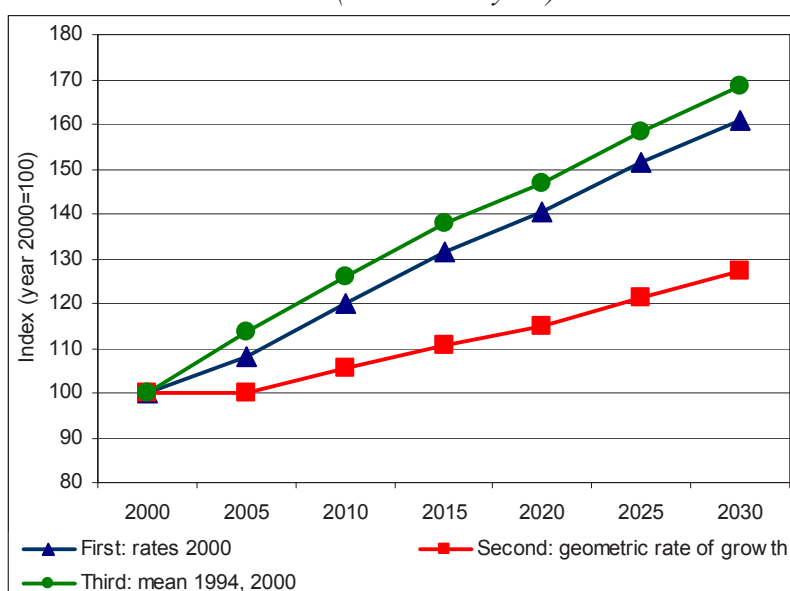
The projection method used in this paper is the same used in an earlier OECD study on disability trends (OECD, 2007). This projection method takes into account the two main factors that will affect the number of disabled people in the future: the projection total number of people and the disability rates, both of them disaggregated by age and sex (Jacobzone et al., 1999). The central scenario is usually used to compute population projections at the national level. The disability rates used for projections of people with disability refer to year 1994 and 2000. Three basic assumptions are used to build three different scenarios. The first one assumes the disability rates by age and sex would remain unchanged compared with the rates for the latest year available (2000). The second one considers the dynamic trend of disability rates by age and sex in two editions of survey: we use the geometric rate of growth between two survey editions.

The third one assumes the disability rates by age and sex would be the geometric mean between two survey editions.

3. Projection results

Under the first scenario, the pure demographic effect is strong due to a relevant increase of the elderly population between 2000 and 2030. Under the second scenario, the effect of the demographic structure is reduced by lower disability rates. Under the third scenario, higher disability rates stress the effect of the demographic structure.

Figure 1: *Projected number of people with disability based on first, second and third scenarios (2000 based year).*



4. Future purpose

An interesting future application of this research would be to compute the number of people with disability when data for 2005 will be available.

References

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