Multidimensional quality of life of persons with and without disabilities in Poland – a comparative approach

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Abstract
Aim - to construct the multidimensional measure of quality of life and compare quality of life of persons with disabilities to the population without disabilities.

Concept - applying Sen’s capability approach and Quality of Life framework developed within the European Statistical System to construct the QoL scores.

Results - lower average multidimensional QoL for persons with disabilities in comparison to those without disabilities in Poland; in 1 dimension (education) persons with disability experience on average higher QoL.

Introduction
The concepts of quality of life (QoL) of persons with disabilities are usually developed specifically for this group.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities underlines acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of humanity.

There are very few comparisons of Quality of Life between persons with and without disabilities.

Comparison of QoL between persons with and without disabilities - crucial for public policy.

In our approach we focus on domains which are relevant across both populations with and without disabilities.

Conclusions
The study applies the same methodology to measure multidimensional quality of life of people with and without disabilities.

The results confirmed lower overall quality of life of persons with disabilities, yet the distance varies between nine dimensions.

These results point to specific life dimensions requiring stronger policy focus than others.

Methods and Materials
The identification for persons with disabilities based on activities of daily living limitation (ADL).

Quality of life was assessed using holistic QoL measurement model following European Statistical System approach (Eurostat, 2016).

Conceptual model based on capability approach (Sen, 1985, 1992) for individuals.

The QoL scores in dimensions constructed using multiply indicators and multiple causes model (MIMIC) model (Hauser & Goldberger, 1971) and single measure of overall QoL - using principal component analysis.

Results
Overall quality of life of persons with disabilities is significantly lower than persons without disabilities.

In 8 out of 9 QoL dimensions, persons with disabilities experience lower quality of life, however, the distance differs in particular dimensions.

• the biggest difference was observed in the health, leisure and overall life experience dimensions,
• the lowest - basic rights, material conditions.

In 1 dimension – education – the value of relevant QoL measure was higher for persons with disabilities than without disabilities.

Distribution of QoL - significantly higher density in the right tail of the distribution among people without disabilities,

• lower average score of persons with disabilities may be a result of lower share of those who experience high QoL.

Table 1. Kernel estimation of overall quality of life density function for person with and without disabilities on Poland.

### References