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doi:10.4017/gt.2010.09.02.253.00 **Purpose** A growing number of Canadians are living with health conditions, and consequently we are seeing an increase in the number of individuals over the age of 65 living with multiple health conditions. Mobility and vision impairments are reported to be the first and fifth, respectively, leading cause of self-reported disability in Canada, yet there are no reports of the number of people living with both health conditions. Assistive technology is one rehabilitation strategy to aid participation in desired daily activities. The data collected from the 2006, post-census, Participation and Activities Limitations (PALS), survey, includes information pertaining to seniors with vision or mobility impairments and their requirements of assistive technology We hypothesized that the number of reported assistive technologies would be greater among those with coexisting mobility and vision impairments compared with those who report only one of these impairments. The purpose of the study was to explore the influence of vision and mobility impairment, either alone or concurrent, on assistive technology use in a sample of Canadians over the age of 65. **Method** Secondary analyses of the PALS 2006 dataset of Statistics Canada were conducted. A complete description of the methodology used in this survey is outlined in the PALS Public Use Microdata Files documentation[1]. The PALS is a survey of Canadians whose day-to-day activities may be limited because of a condition or health problem[1]. Among respondents over the age of 65 years, the prevalence of four categories of impairments was quantified: individuals reporting a vision impairment, individuals reporting a mobility impairment, individuals reporting both a vision and mobility impairment. Weighted data were applied to obtain population estimates. **Results & Discussion** From the data in the PALS 2006 survey it is estimated that 2 million members of the population were over 65 years of age. Of those individuals, 2.8% reported a vision impairment, 50.7% reported a mobility impairment, and 15.0% reported both a vision and mobility impairment. As hypothesized there was a significant increase in the number of reported assistive technologies among individuals reported coexisting mobility and vision impairments compared with those who report only one of these impairments. These findings indicate that the coexistence of two health conditions increases the challenges of activities of daily living as reflected in the increased need for assistive technology compared to individuals reporting a single vision or mobility impairment.

References

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