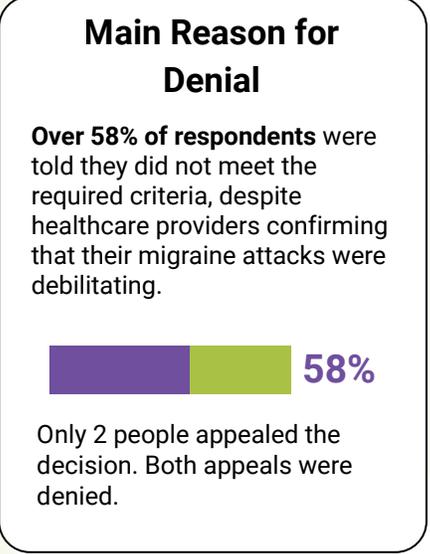
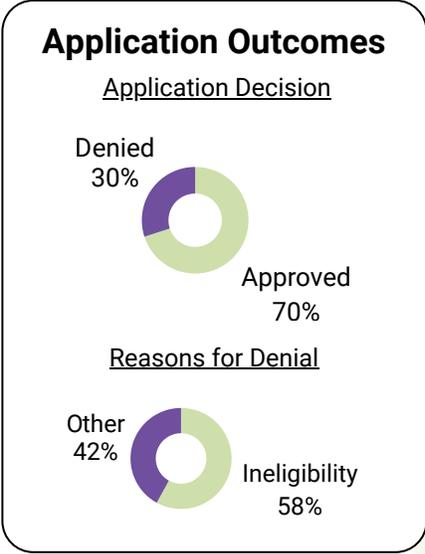
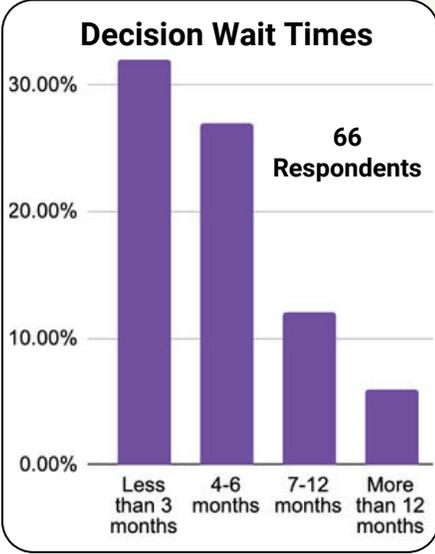
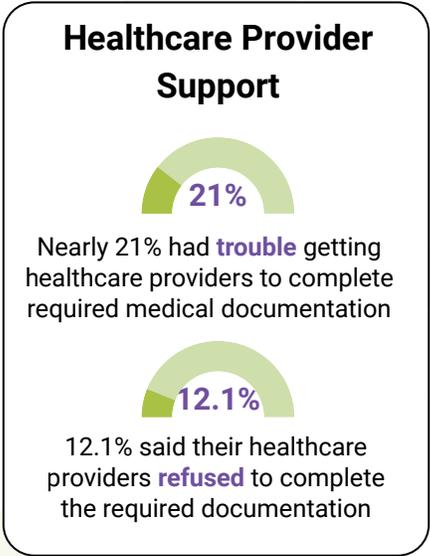
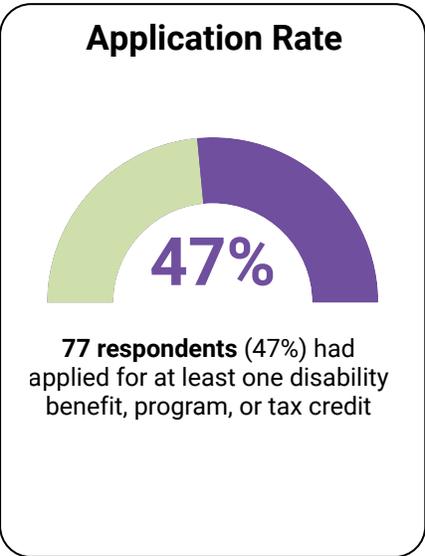
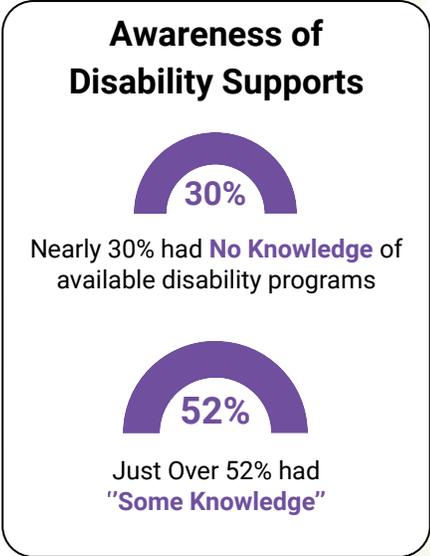


Canadian Disability Program: Survey Results

General Overview and Conclusions

165 respondents completed the **Government Disability survey**, sharing personal insights into the application process, outcomes, and the barriers they encountered.



Long delays increase **emotional strain** and **financial insecurity**, particularly for those unable to work due to migraine or burdened by high out-of-pocket treatment costs.

"I wish government disability programs were actually enough money to live on. I go into debt every month and rely on savings (which are rapidly becoming depleted!) to make up the difference. The Disability Tax Credit I'm not eligible for, and even ODSP I don't qualify for because of my assets. Not really a fair system though I'm grateful for what I do have." – Survey Respondent

"I've given up. I've attempted 4x to apply over the years... all attempts and appeals have been denied. I hope more can be done in future but it's an exhausting, stressful and makes you feel unworthy." – Survey Respondent

Challenges to Access

57.9%

Strict Eligibility Criteria

Difficult to meet for chronic conditions with fluctuating and invisible symptoms (reason for denial for 57.9% of respondents).



Complex Medical Documentation

21% of respondents said healthcare providers were hesitant or refused (12%) to complete documentation.



Insufficient Financial Support

Many respondents reported that disability benefits were not enough to cover the cost of migraine treatments.



Emotional Toll & Frustration

Many respondents described the process as dehumanizing, disempowering, confusing, and adversarial, causing stress that often worsens migraine symptoms.



Limited Guidance:

Applicants lack sufficient information on eligibility and how to properly complete forms, increasing errors.



Lack of Policymaker Education

Many respondents indicated that migraine is frequently dismissed within the system, leading to misunderstandings and insufficient accommodations for their condition.

Recommendations

Simplify the Process

- User-friendly design with clearer instructions for applicants and providers.
- More appropriate, migraine-aware documentation requirements.
- Clearer, more transparent, and responsive appeal processes.

Increase Awareness & Education

- Provide applicant support through workshops, webinars, 1-on-1 guidance, and expert-led sessions.
- Offer clear, comprehensive written and digital guides.

Increase Financial Support and Medication Coverage

- Raise disability benefits to match real living costs.
- Expand medication coverage to include essential, often costly migraine treatments (e.g., triptans, Botox, anti-CGRP therapies).

Educate Policymakers

- Educate policymakers on the daily impacts and disabling nature chronic migraine can have.
- Update eligibility criteria to recognize migraine and a disabling condition (similar to cancer and depression).

