

Disability prevalence estimates 2008/9

The Office for Disability Issues has updated DWP estimates which show there are over 10 million disabled people in Britain, of whom 5.1 million are over state pension age and 700,000 are children.

This estimate covers the number of people with a longstanding illness, disability or infirmity, and who have a significant difficulty with day-to-day activities.

Disabled people in Great Britain (figures are in millions)					
	Adults			Children	All ages
	W/A	SPA	All		
2002/3	5.0	4.7	9.7	0.7	10.4
2003/4	4.9	4.6	9.5	0.7	10.1
2004/5	4.8	4.6	9.5	0.7	10.1
2005/6	5.2	4.9	10.1	0.7	10.8
2006/7	4.9	4.9	9.8	0.7	10.4
2007/8	4.8	5.0	9.8	0.8	10.6
2008/9	5.0	5.1	10.1	0.7	10.8

W/A = adults of working age; SPA = adults over state pension age

These estimates use data from the Family Resources Survey.

Notes:

1. This estimate covers the number of people with a longstanding illness, disability or infirmity, and who have a significant difficulty with day-to-day activities. It is based on data taken from the Family Resources Survey (FRS).
2. Everyone in this group would meet the definition of disability in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA); however, these estimates do not reflect the total number of people covered by the DDA.
3. The figures are estimates based on a sample survey and are therefore subject to sampling variation. Caution should be exercised in the interpretation of small year-on-year fluctuations and identification of trends should be based on several years of data. The figures are rounded to the nearest 0.1 million and may not sum due to rounding.
4. The estimates are based on sample counts that have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the FRS to Government Office Region populations by

age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining response bias.

5. These estimates will be updated annually by the Office for Disability Issues.

Annex B

Disability prevalence disaggregated by impairment (millions)

Capacity affected	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Mobility	6.3	6.2	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.4
lifting, carrying	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0
manual dexterity	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.7
continence	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5
communication	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0
memory/concentration/ learning	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.2
recognising when in danger	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7
physical co-ordination	N/A	N/A	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4
other	1.6	1.9	2.8	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.5
All with at least one impairment	10.4	10.1	10.1	10.8	10.4	10.6	10.8

Disability prevalence disaggregated by gender (millions)

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Male	4.9	4.8	4.9	5.2	4.9	5.0	5.1
Female	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.7
All	10.4	10.1	10.1	10.8	10.4	10.6	10.8

These estimates use data from the Family Resources Survey. The figures are rounded to the nearest 0.1 million and may not sum due to rounding.