

Disability prevalence estimates 2009/10

The Office for Disability Issues has updated Department for Work and Pensions estimates which show there are over 10 million disabled people in Great Britain, of whom 5.1 million are adults of working age, 5.0 million are over state pension age and 0.8 million 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
	Working Age*	State Pension Age**	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
2009/10	5.1	5.0	10.1	0.8	10.9

*Working Age: men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59

**State Pension Age: men aged 65 and over and women aged 60 and over

Disability prevalence disaggregated by impairment for Great Britain (millions)

Capacity affected	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Mobility	6.3	6.2	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.2
lifting, carrying	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.9
manual dexterity	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.6
continence	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
communication	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1
memory/concentration/ learning	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.2
recognising when in danger	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
physical co-ordination	N/A	N/A	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
other	1.6	1.9	2.8	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.7
All with at least one impairment	10.4	10.1	10.1	10.8	10.4	10.6	10.8	10.9

Disability prevalence disaggregated by gender for Great Britain (millions)

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Male	4.9	4.8	4.9	5.2	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.1
Female	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.8
All	10.4	10.1	10.1	10.8	10.4	10.6	10.8	10.9

Disability prevalence disaggregated by former government office region for the United Kingdom (millions)

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
North East	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
North West and Merseyside	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5
Yorkshire and Humberside	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
East Midlands	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
West Midlands	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1
East	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0
London	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0
South East	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
South West	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0
Wales	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7
Scotland	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9
Northern Ireland	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
GB	10.4	10.1	10.1	10.8	10.4	10.6	10.8	10.9
UK	10.7	10.4	10.4	11.2	10.7	10.9	11.1	11.2

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.

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. From 1 October 2010, provisions in the Equality Act 2010 (EA) replaced the majority of provisions in 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 former 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.