

Transport factsheet (March 2009)

- The number of disabled people experiencing any difficulties in using transport related to their health condition/disability has remained fairly constant between 2005 and 2007 at around 1 in 4 disabled people.¹
- The percentage of people with mobility difficulties² in the general population is 14%. Mobility difficulties tend to affect older people more than younger people. 45% of those aged 70 and over experience mobility difficulties, compared with 5% of those aged 16 to 49. Rates are also higher among women than men.³
- Adults who live in the lowest income quintile are five times as likely to have mobility difficulties as those who live in the highest income quintile.⁴
- Two thirds of respondents with a mobility difficulty say they do not have a difficulty getting in or out of a car.
 - However, people with mobility difficulties are more than twice as likely as those without to live in a household with no car, regardless of their age.
 - 48% of people with mobility difficulties aged 17 and over hold a full UK driving licence, compared to 75% of those without mobility difficulties.
- Adults who said they had difficulty using local bus services were asked what problems they had with this and whether they used local buses at all.
 - Two-thirds said they had difficulty getting to the bus stop, and a similar proportion said they had difficulty in getting on or off buses. Just over half cited difficulty with waiting at the bus stop.
 - 69% said they did not use local buses at all.

¹ ONS Omnibus Survey [<http://www.officefordisability.gov.uk/research/annualreport.asp>]

² Mobility difficulties is defined as anybody who has a disability or long standing illness that makes it difficult to either a) go out on foot or b) use local buses.

³ Source: National Transport Survey 2006

[<http://www.dft.gov.uk/172974/173025/221412/221531/223963/322727/NTS2006DATATABSPTb>]

⁴ Unless otherwise stated, all the above data is collected from Department for Transport's "Health Related Travel Difficulties – Personal Travel Factsheet – January 2007" – and is based on the 2005 NTS survey.

- The number of parking badges for disabled people (Blue Badges) on issue in England increased by 2 per cent over the period 31 March 2006 to 31 March 2007. It now stands at 2.3 million.
- There has been a long upward trend in badges issued, with the number of badges on issue more than trebling since 1987. At 31 March 2007, there were 45 badges on issue per 1,000 people compared to 34 per 1,000 ten years earlier.
- The North West has more badges per head of population than any other region. Local Authorities in the North West have currently issued 62 badges per 1,000 people, compared with a national average (in England) of 45 per 1,000 people.⁵
- We have seen a continued increase in the percentage of buses with low floor wheel chair access. In 2001/2 this figure stood at 28.2% and has risen to 62.0% in 2007/8.⁶
- In 2006, 67% of disabled rail passengers were satisfied that the train station met their needs as a passenger with a long term illness or disability, whilst 65% were satisfied that the trains themselves met their needs.

⁵ Information on Parking Badges from the Department for Transport's "Parking Badges for Disabled People 2007 – supplementary document"

⁶ Department for Transport's Annual Sample Survey of Bus Operators.