

Children

Key facts from the Life Opportunities Survey interim results, 2009/10

The Life Opportunities Survey (LOS) is a new large scale longitudinal survey of disability in Great Britain. Interim results from the first year of the two year baseline survey were published on the 9th December 2010(1) and the information below presents some of the key facts from this report. In addition to these results, presented in boxes are some of the findings from the qualitative research that was commissioned to complement the statistics provided by the LOS(1).

The LOS survey only interviewed adults aged 16 and over in Great Britain directly. However, some key information about children living within the household was collected in order to determine prevalence of disabled children and areas of participation restriction. This focused on children aged 11 to 15 and their participation in four key areas of a child's life, education, leisure and play, transport and personal relationships.

Participation restrictions

- One in ten children aged 11 to 15 in Great Britain had an impairment(2). As seen in Table 1, children with impairments were far more likely to have experienced participation restrictions than children without impairments.
- The findings were similar when using the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) definition of disability(2).
- Compared to children without impairments, children with impairments were:
 - 17 times more likely to experience a participation restriction to personal relationships (1 per cent compared with 18 per cent).
 - 9 times more likely to experience a participation restriction to education (3 per cent compared with 28 per cent).
 - 4 times as likely to experience a participation restriction to transport (5 per cent compared with 21 per cent).

1 See <http://www.odi.gov.uk/disability-statistics-and-research/life-opportunities-survey.php> for more information.

2 Please refer to the definition of DDA disability and impairments included in Chapter 1 of the LOS Interim Report, 2009/10.

- 4 times as likely to experience a participation restriction to leisure or play (8 per cent compared to 29 per cent).

Table 1: Participation restrictions experienced by children with impairments, 2009/10

	Percentage of	
	Children without impairments	Children with impairments
	%	%
Education	3	28
Leisure or play	8	29
Transport	5	21
Personal activities	1	18

Source: Office for National Statistics

Barriers to participation

- Parents of children with impairments reported that their greatest barrier to participation was the attitudes of other people. This was a barrier for more than one third of children with impairments (35 per cent) compared with 7 per cent of children without impairments.
- Other common barriers for children with impairments were financial reasons (25 per cent), poor services (23 per cent), a lack of help or assistance (20 per cent) and lack of aids or equipment (14 per cent).

Special Educational Needs

- Almost one quarter (23 per cent) of all children aged 11 to 15 were identified, either by their school or by someone else, to have had Special Educational Needs at some time in their life. Of these, 62 per cent were still thought to have Special Education Needs.