

Domestic life and social care

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 information below explores the assistance received with everyday activities and the care provided by adults(2).

Under a fifth (16 per cent) of all adults required assistance with at least one everyday activity.

Source of care received

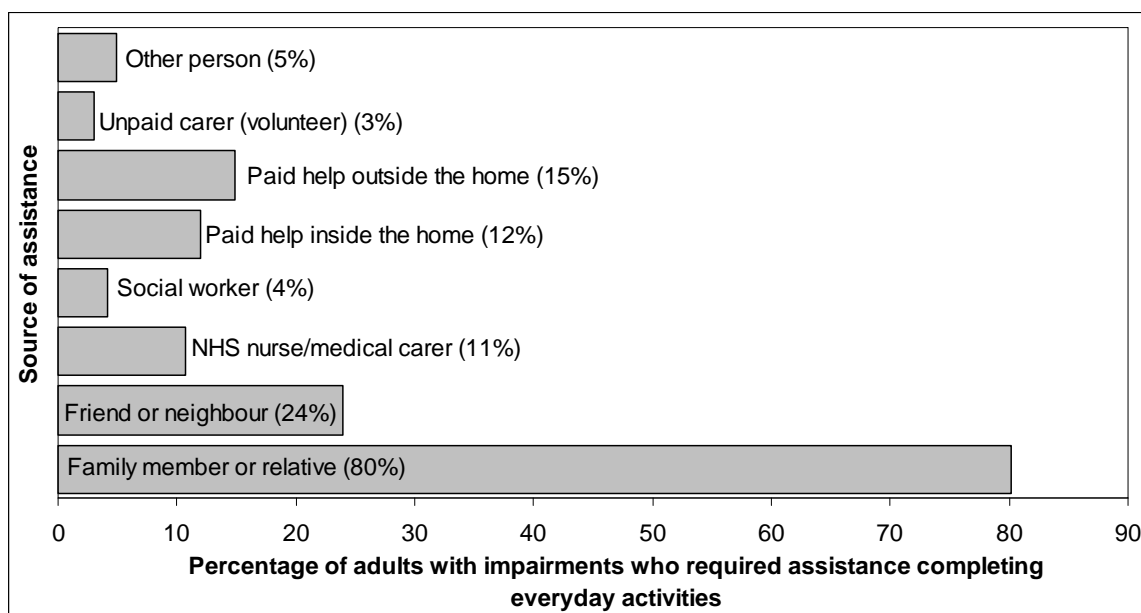
- As seen in Figure 1, adults with impairments(3) who required assistance completing everyday activities were more likely to receive assistance from a family member (80 per cent). A quarter (24 per cent) of adults with impairments received assistance from a friend or neighbour.
- The findings were similar when using the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) definition of disability(3).

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

2 Results presented are from adults (those aged 16 and over) who were interviewed as part of the LOS between June 2009 and March 2010.

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

Figure 1: Source of assistance received by adults with impairments, 2009/10



Source: Office for National Statistics

Frequency of assistance received

- When people with impairments who receive assistance with daily activities were asked how frequently they receive this care, the most common response was ‘always’ reported by over half of these respondents (56%). This was followed by; ‘often’ (23%), ‘sometimes’ (17%) and ‘rarely’ (4%)

Choice and control over assistance received

Adults with impairments were asked how often they ‘have a say over the assistance’ they receive.

- Over three-fifths (62 per cent) reported that they ‘always’ had a say over the assistance that they received.
- Around a fifth said ‘often’ (19%),
- Just over a tenth said ‘sometimes’ (12%),
- And less than one in twenty said ‘rarely’ (4%) or ‘never’ (3%).

Informal care provided for other people

- Adults with impairments were more likely to be providing informal care for other household members (in a non-professional capacity) than adults without impairments (15 per cent and 8 per cent respectively).
- Similarly, 15 per cent of adults with impairments provided informal care for other people who did not live in their household (in a non-professional capacity), compared with 13 per cent of adults without impairments.

Time spent caring for others

- Adults with impairments who provided informal care for others were more likely to spend longer hours caring for others than adults without impairments. Adults with impairments were more likely to spend 100+ hours per week providing care than adults without impairments (11 per cent and 7 per cent respectively).
- Of all adults with impairments who provided informal care for others:
 - nearly two-thirds (56 per cent) spent 0-19 hours per week providing this care
 - a tenth (9 per cent) spent 20-34 hours per week providing this care
 - 5 per cent spent 34-49 hours per week providing this care
 - 4 per cent spent 50-99 hours per week providing this care
 - a tenth (11 per cent) spent 100+ hours per week providing this care.