

Participation restriction

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).

Participation restriction is based on the social model of disability and is a measure of the barriers to participation in different areas of life that adults(2) with impairments(3) experience. Examples of social barriers include the attitudes of other people, inaccessible buildings, public transport and information, limited income and lack of support or assistance.

Participation restriction by life area

Whilst participation restrictions to leisure, social and cultural activities and transport were the most prevalent for all adults, in some areas of life adults with impairments experienced much greater participation restriction.

Compared to adults without impairments, adults with impairments were:

- over twice as likely to experience a participation restriction to employment opportunity (26 per cent compared to 56 per cent).
- almost twice as likely to experience participation restrictions in their learning opportunities (9 per cent compared to 17 per cent).
- four times more likely to experience a participation restriction to accessing buildings (7 per cent compared to 29 per cent).
- thirteen times more likely to experience a participation restriction to accessing rooms within their own home (1 per cent compared to 12 per cent).

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.

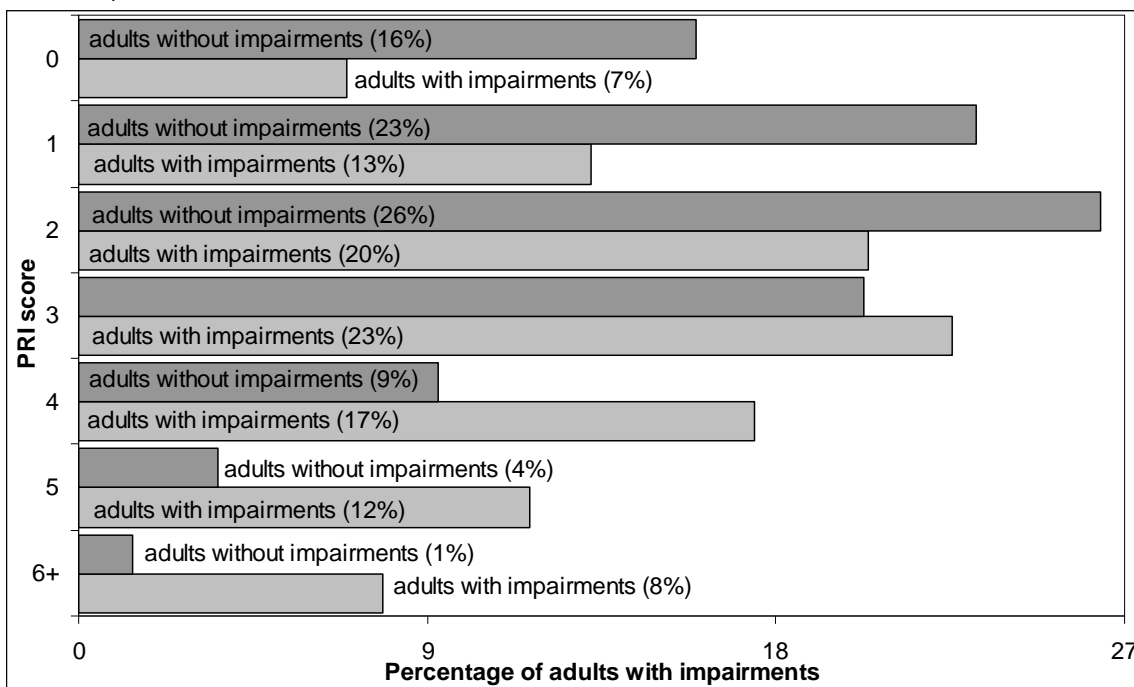
3 Please refer to the definition of adults with impairments included in Chapter 1 of the LOS Interim Report, 2009/10.

- significantly more likely to experience participation restrictions to using transport (58 per cent compared to 74 per cent).
- significantly more likely to experience participation restriction to economic life and living standards (that is, being able to afford expenses or make loan repayments) (29 per cent compared to 45 per cent).

Participation restriction index(4)

- The participation restriction index (PRI) is a score between zero and eight that is calculated for each respondent as the sum of their participation restrictions across eight life areas(5). For example, if an individual was restricted in the work that they could do and in the learning opportunities they could take part in then their PRI score would be two.
- As seen in Figure 1, on average adults with impairments experienced participation restriction to three life areas compared with two life areas for adults without impairments.

Figure 1: Participation restriction index score of adults by impairment status, 2009/10



Source: Office for National Statistics

4 See Chapter 3 of the Life Opportunities Survey interim report, 2009/10 for more information.

5 Education and training, employment, economic life and living standards, transport, leisure, social and cultural activities, social contact, accessibility of housing and accessibility outside the home.