

Disability prevalence estimates 2011/12

The Office for Disability Issues has updated Department for Work and Pensions estimate. This shows that there are 11.6 million disabled people in Great Britain, of whom 5.7 million are adults of working age, 5.1 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.

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.

Disabled people in Great Britain (figures are in millions)

	Adults of working age*	Adults of state pension age**	All adults	Children	All ages
2002/03	5.0	4.7	9.7	0.7	10.4
2003/04	4.9	4.6	9.5	0.7	10.1
2004/05	4.8	4.6	9.5	0.7	10.1
2005/06	5.2	4.9	10.1	0.7	10.8
2006/07	4.9	4.9	9.8	0.7	10.4
2007/08	4.8	5.0	9.8	0.8	10.6
2008/09	5.0	5.1	10.1	0.7	10.9
2009/10	5.1	5.1	10.2	0.8	11.0
2010/11	5.3	5.2	10.4	0.8	11.2
2011/12	5.7	5.1	10.8	0.8	11.6

*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 (State Pension age changed from 2010/11 and so the definition of State Pension age and Working age is not consistent over time. The State Pension age for men is 65 for men born before 6 April 1959. For women born on or before 6 April 1950, the State Pension age is 60. From 6 April 2010, State Pension age for women born on or before 6 April 1950 started to increase gradually between April 2010 and November 2018. For the purpose of this data, women are defined to be of State Pension age based on their date of birth and the date of the interview).

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Disability prevalence disaggregated by impairment for Great Britain (millions)

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Mobility	6.3	6.2	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.5
Difficulty with lifting, carrying	5.8	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.1	6.3
Manual dexterity	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.8
Continence	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.8
Communication	1.3	1.7	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.2
Memory/ concentration/ learning	1.7	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.5
Recognising when in danger	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8
Physical co- ordination	N/A	N/A	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.7
Other	1.4	1.9	2.5	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.9	4.1
At least one impairment	10.4	10.1	10.1	10.8	10.4	10.6	10.9	11.0	11.2	11.6

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	2010/11	2011/12
Male	4.9	4.8	4.9	5.2	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.4
Female	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.8	5.8	5.9	6.3
All	10.4	10.1	10.1	10.8	10.4	10.6	10.9	11.0	11.2	11.6

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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	2010/11	2011/12
North East	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	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	1.5	1.5
Yorks and Humberside	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
East Midlands	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9
West Midlands	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1
Eastern	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
London	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.2
South East	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5
South West	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0
Wales	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6
Scotland	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0
Northern Ireland	0.3	0.3	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	10.9	11.0	11.2	11.6
UK	10.7	10.4	10.4	11.2	10.7	10.9	11.2	11.3	11.5	11.9

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.