

SDR 167/2015

21 October 2015

Local Authority Registers of People with Disabilities, Wales, 31 March 2015

This annual National Statistics first release summarises information on people with disabilities registered with local authorities in Wales. The release presents key results in Wales for registers at 31 March 2015. There are no scheduled revisions to these data. Further information and full details for individual local authorities is published on StatsWales. Terms which have a special meaning in the provision of social services are further explained in the glossary.

Key results:

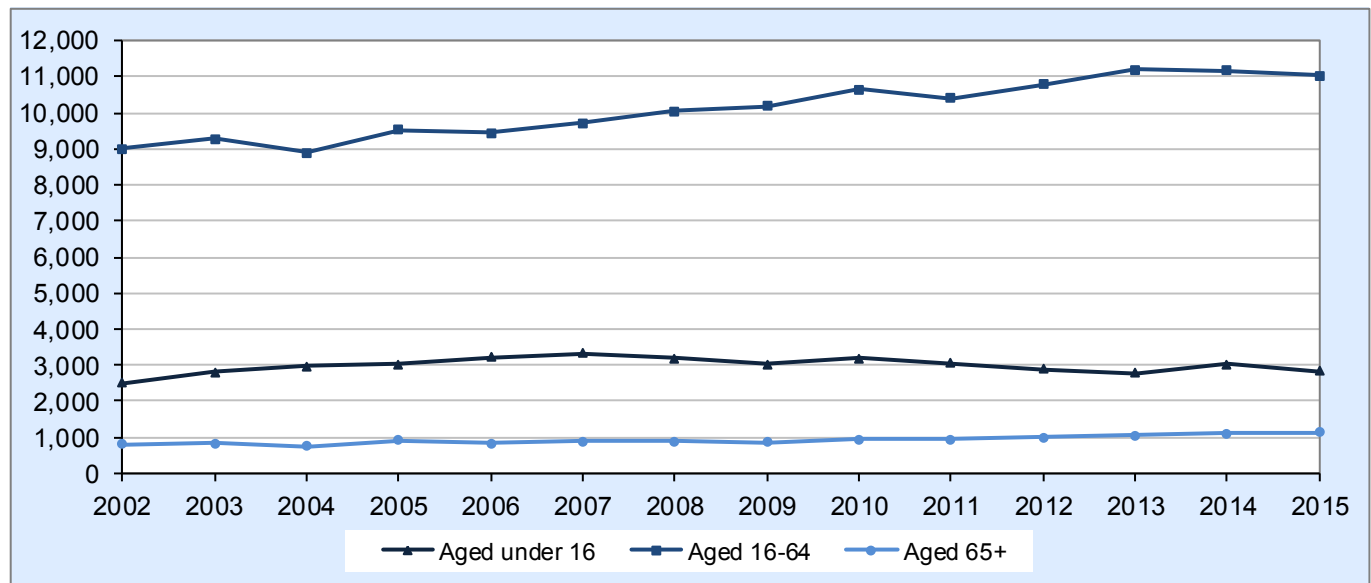
The reported number of people on registers with learning disabilities at 31 March 2015 :

- There were 15,010 people in total, of whom 12,884 (86 per cent) were living in community placements and 2,126 (14 per cent) were in residential establishments ([Table 1](#)).

The reported number of people on registers with physical or sensory disabilities at 31 March 2015 :

- There were 76,880 people in total, of whom 47,335 (62 per cent) were registered as having a physical disability only.

Chart 1: Number of people with learning disabilities on local authority registers, by age ^(a)



Source: SSDA901

(a) See footnotes in Table 2.

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Section 1: Registers of people with learning disabilities

Table 1: Number of people on local authority registers by type of accommodation and age, at 31 March 2015

Type of accommodation	Aged under 16	Aged 16-64	Aged 65+	Total
Placements in community settings	2,808	9,269	807	12,884
Own home	.	1,620	298	1,918
Living with parents or family	2,684	5,432	148	8,264
Foster home	123	80	7	210
Lodgings/supported living	1	2,137	354	2,492
Placements in residential establishments	34	1,770	322	2,126
Health service accommodation	0	101	14	115
Local authority care homes	6	43	19	68
Private or voluntary care homes	26	1,163	248	1,437
Other accommodation	2	463	41	506
All accommodation	2,842	11,039	1,129	15,010

Source: SSDA901

.. The data item is not applicable.

At 31 March 2015 there were 15,010 people registered with learning disabilities in Wales. 86 per cent were living in community placements and 14 per cent were in residential establishments. 55 per cent of all people on registers were living with parents or family and 17 per cent were in lodgings or supported living.

Table 2: Number of people on local authority registers by age, at 31 March

Year	Aged under 16 ^(a)	Aged 16-64 ^(b)	Aged 65+ ^(c)	Total ^(d)
2002	2,493	9,021	798	12,312
2003	2,805	9,284	841	12,930
2004	2,962	8,887	741	13,156
2005	3,039	9,524	926	13,489
2006	3,215	9,437	821	13,473
2007	3,318	9,724	891	13,933
2008	3,206	10,054	877	14,137
2009	3,022	10,184	862	14,068
2010	3,193	10,647	931	14,771
2011	3,068	10,421	934	14,423
2012	2,898	10,802	1,001	14,701
2013	2,769	11,214	1,046	15,029
2014	3,025	11,165	1,107	15,297
2015	2,842	11,039	1,129	15,010

Source: SSDA901

(a) 2002, 2005 to 2010 and 2013 based on data submitted by 21 authorities. 2003 and 2004 based on data submitted by 20 authorities.

(b) 2004 and 2006 based on data submitted by 21 authorities.

(c) 2002, 2004 and 2006 based on data submitted by 21 authorities.

(d) For 2004 the total will not match the breakdown as one local authority was unable to provide a full breakdown.

Of those registered with learning disabilities at 31 March 2015, 19 per cent were aged under 16, 74 per cent were aged between 16 and 64, and 8 per cent were aged 65 and over. The proportions have remained fairly stable since 2002 for each age group.

Section 2: Registers of people with physical or sensory disabilities

The registers of people with physical or sensory disabilities include all persons registered under [Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948](#). However, registration is voluntary and figures may therefore be an underestimate of the numbers of people with physical or sensory disabilities.

At 31 March 2015, 15,905 people were registered with a visual impairment, of whom just under half (49 per cent) were registered as severely sight impaired and just over half (51 per cent) as sight impaired.

Table 3: Number of severely sight impaired people on local authority registers, at 31 March 2015

Severely sight impaired	Aged under 18	Aged 18-64	Aged 65+	Total
Severely sight impaired with hearing impairment	17	137	682	836
Severely sight impaired without hearing impairment	170	1,950	4,844	6,964
Total severely sight impaired	187	2,087	5,526	7,800

Source: SSDA900

At 31 March 2015, 7,800 people were registered as severely sight impaired. 11 per cent of these people also had a hearing impairment. Nearly three-quarters (71 per cent) of people on the register with severe sight impairment were aged 65 or older.

Table 4: Number of sight impaired people on local authority registers, at 31 March 2015

Sight impaired	Aged under 18	Aged 18-64	Aged 65+	Total
Sight impaired with hearing impairment	8	64	597	669
Sight impaired without hearing impairment	286	1,924	5,226	7,436
Total sight impaired	294	1,988	5,823	8,105

Source: SSDA900

8 per cent of people with sight impairment also had a hearing impairment. Nearly three-quarters (72 per cent) of people on the register with sight impairment were aged 65 or older.

People who have sight impairment in addition to hearing impairment are excluded from Table 5 below, but are included in Tables 3 and 4. See the [Glossary](#) for information on the classifications.

Table 5: Number of people with hearing impairment or only a physical disability on local authority registers, at 31 March 2015

Disabilities	Aged under 18	Aged 18-64	Aged 65+	Total
Deaf with speech	42	796	747	1,585
Deaf without speech	39	450	246	735
Hard of hearing	94	1,820	9,406	11,320
Total with hearing impairment	175	3,066	10,399	13,640
Physical disability only ^(a)	783	12,018	34,534	47,335

Source: SSDA900

(a) Based on data provided by 21 local authorities. Blaenau Gwent was unable to provide the data.

At 31 March 2015, there were 13,640 people registered with hearing impairment only, of whom 83 per cent were hard of hearing.

Table 6: Number of people with physical or sensory disabilities on local authority registers, at 31 March 2015 ^(a)

Year	Severely sight impaired ^(b)	Sight impaired ^(b)	Hearing impairment ^(c)	Physical disability only ^(d)	Total ^(e)
2002	9,321	10,294	10,959	.	.
2003	9,356	10,278	10,779	.	.
2004	9,643	10,565	12,082	.	.
2005	9,905	10,751	12,716	.	.
2006	9,677	10,287	13,185	.	.
2007	8,657	8,890	12,211	50,680	80,438
2008	8,889	8,925	12,219	51,790	81,823
2009	8,723	9,352	12,742	50,217	81,034
2010	8,003	8,078	12,278	46,469	74,828
2011	7,904	8,336	12,582	45,401	74,223
2012	7,972	8,524	12,600	44,695	73,791
2013	7,978	8,513	13,056	47,771	77,318
2014	8,263	8,676	13,217	47,150	77,306
2015	7,800	8,105	13,640	47,335	76,880

Source: SSDA900

(a) People with multiple disabilities are counted only once from 2007 onwards.

(b) 2006, 2010 to 2012 based on data provided by 21 authorities, 2015 based on data provided by 20 authorities.

(c) 2003, 2006, 2010 to 2012 based on data provided by 21 authorities.

(d) 2007 and 2015 based on data provided by 21 authorities. 2008 based on data provided by 20 authorities. 2009 to 2012 based on data provided by 19 authorities.

(e) 2010 to 2012 based on data provided by 21 authorities.

.'. The data item is not applicable.

At 31 March 2015, there were 76,880 people reported on local authority registers with physical or sensory disabilities, a decrease of 426 people when compared to the previous year.

Glossary

Deaf: People who (even with a hearing aid) have little or no useful hearing. This is a definition based on hearing ability and not on choice of language. It includes both Deaf people who are Culturally Deaf, British Sign Language Users and those with other methods of communication.

Residential establishment: A communal establishment where an inclusive package of care including accommodation, personal care and other services is provided, usually commissioned by the local authority.

Supported living: People who are accommodated in an individual's own home or in a shared house; support services such as the provision of personal care are provided separately, and not as part of an inclusive package of care.

Notes

1. Policy context and data collection

- The registers of people with physical or sensory disabilities include all persons registered under [Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948](#). However, registration is voluntary and figures may therefore be an underestimate of the numbers of people with physical or sensory disabilities. Registration of severe sight impairment is, however, a pre-condition for the receipt of certain financial benefits and the numbers of people in this category may therefore be more reliable than those for partial sight impairment or other disabilities. These factors alongside uncertainties about the regularity with which councils review and update their records, mean that the reliability of this information is difficult to determine and so it cannot be thought of as a definitive number of people with disabilities.
- A more detailed breakdown of people with visual and other disabilities has been collected from 2007 than in previous years in order to identify the numbers of people with multiple disabilities. Some of the decrease between 2006 and 2007 may be due to double counting in earlier years.
- People with sight impairment are registered by local authorities following certification of their sight impairment by a consultant ophthalmologist. [The Certificate of Vision Impairment \(Wales\)](#) formally certifies someone as partially sighted or as blind (now using the preferred terminology 'sight impaired' or 'severely sight impaired', respectively) so that the Local Authority can register him or her.
- Registration is voluntary and access to various, or to some, benefits and social services is not dependent on registration. If the person is not known to social services as someone with needs arising from their visual impairment, registration also acts as a referral for a social care assessment.

1.1 Data collection

The data were supplied to the Data Collection team within the Welsh Government by the 22 local authorities in Wales on forms SSDA901 (Registers of people with learning disabilities) and SSDA900 (Register of people with physical or sensory disabilities). The forms apply an extensive series of validation checks to ensure that the information provided is accurate and consistent.

Further information on quality and methods can be found in the Quality Report at: <http://gov.wales/docs/statistics/2013/130411-aggregate-pss-statistics-quality-report-en.pdf>

1.2 Symbols and rounding conventions

The following symbols may have been used in the tables:

- the data item is not exactly zero, but is less than half the final digit shown.
- . the data item is not applicable.
- .. the data item is not available.
- * the data item is disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication.

1.3 A National Statistics publication

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

1.4 Revisions

Occasionally, revisions can occur due to errors in our statistical processes or when a data supplier notifies the Welsh Government that they have submitted incorrect information. In these cases, a judgement is made as to whether the change is significant enough to publish a revised statistical release. Where changes are not deemed to be significant, figures will be corrected if they appear in future releases. However minor amendments to the figures may be reflected in the StatsWales tables prior to the next release.

2. Key Quality Information

This section provides a summary of information on this output against five dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, and Comparability.

2.1 Relevance

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor adult social services trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the underlying data. These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some of the key users may include:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- Local authorities;
- The third sector (e.g. charities);
- The Department for Health and Social Services in the Welsh Government;
- Other areas of the Welsh Government;
- The research community;
- Students, academics and universities;
- Individual citizens and private companies.

The statistics may also be useful for other UK governments

- The Northern Ireland Executive's Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
- The Scottish Government, Analytical Services Division
- The Department for Education in England.

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- advice to Ministers;
- local authority comparisons and benchmarks;
- to inform the social services policy decision-making process in Wales;
- to inform the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales;
- to assist in research on adults receiving social services.

2.2 Accuracy

Every year the data are collected from the same sources (the SSDA900 and SSDA901 data collection returns) and adhere to the national standards and guidance, thus ensuring coherence within and across organisations.

Statisticians within the Welsh Government review the data and query any anomalies with local authorities between submissions to ensure coherence of the data received, and before tables are published. The figures in this release reflect the final position as at 31 March 2015.

2.3 Timeliness and Punctuality

The Data Collection team within the Welsh Government collected data, for the financial year 2014-15, between May and July 2015. Data in this release refers to final 2015 data. This release was published in October 2015, meeting the planned date of publication.

2.4 Accessibility and Clarity

This statistical release is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics section of the Welsh Government website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables on [StatsWales](#), a free to use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download data.

2.5 Comparability

The registers of people with learning disabilities data may be an underestimate of the total number of people with learning disabilities as registration is voluntary. Local authorities submit numbers of all persons identified as having a learning disability currently known to the authority and included in a register of records for the purpose of planning or providing services.

Related Publications

Statistics collected in each United Kingdom country may differ and the detailed guidance available from each country's website should be consulted before using these statistics as comparative measures. Related publications are referenced below.

People with learning disabilities in England:

http://www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk/publications/1241/People_with_Learning_Disabilities_in_England_2013

People in England with sensory disabilities:

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/article/2021/Website-Search?q=Registered+Blind+and+Partially+Sighted+People&go=Go&area=both>

People with learning disabilities in Scotland:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/TrendLearningDisabilities>

People with visual disabilities in Scotland:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/Data/BlindPartiallySighted>

Adult Community Statistics for Northern Ireland can be accessed on the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety website:

<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/statistics/socialcare.htm>

4. Further information

Further information is available for other personal social services statistical releases on the Welsh government Website:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/?topics=Health+and+social+care&subtopics=Social+services&view=Search+results&lang=en>

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User Feedback

We invite you to send your comments on the publication to stats.pss@wales.gsi.gov.uk



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<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

Annex: A List of Tables and Data Items Provided in StatsWales

1. [Persons with learning disabilities](#) by local authority, service and age range.
([Table 1](#) and [Table 2](#) of the release)
2. [Physically/sensory disabled persons](#) by local authority, disability and age range.
([Table 3](#) to [Table 5](#) of the release)
3. [Physically/sensory disabled persons, pre 2006-07](#) by local authority, disability and measure.
([Table 6](#) of the release)