

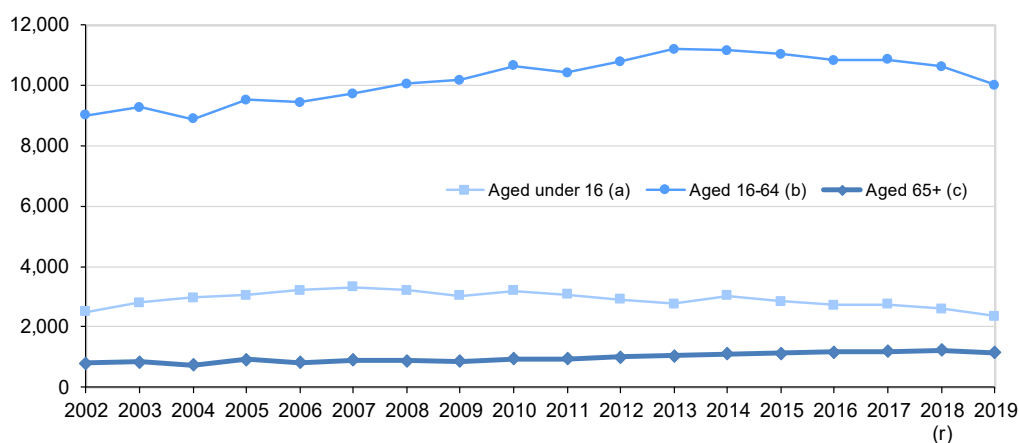


## Local authority registers of disabled people, 31 March 2019

30 October 2019  
SFR 105/2019

This annual National Statistics release summarises information on disabled people registered with local authorities in Wales. The return includes information on people recorded on local authority registers of disabled people with physical or sensory disabilities and learning disabilities as at 31 March 2019.

**Chart 1: Number of people on local authority registers with learning disabilities by age, as at 31 March**



Source: SSSA901

- (a) 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2018 and 2019 based on data submitted by 21 local authorities. 2003 and 2004 based on data submitted by 20 local authorities.  
 (b) 2004, 2006, 2018 and 2019 based on data submitted by 21 local authorities.  
 (c) 2002, 2004, 2006, 2018 and 2019 based on data submitted by 21 local authorities.  
 (r) Figures have been revised since previously published.

### Main points

#### 13,507 people were reported on registers of people with learning disabilities:

- 85 per cent were living in community placements ([Table 1](#))
- 15 per cent were living in residential establishments ([Table 1](#))

Not all local authorities were able to provide a breakdown for placement settings

#### 52,295 people were reported on registers of people with physical or sensory disabilities:

- 54 per cent were registered as having a physical disability only ([Table 2](#))

Not all local authorities were able to provide this data

### About this release

The release presents key results in Wales for local authority registers at 31 March 2019.

Terms which have a special meaning in the provision of social services are further explained in the [Glossary](#).

One local authority was unable to provide any data for 2019 due to ICT issues. One local authority was unable to provide a full age breakdown for people with learning disabilities. One local authority was unable to provide any figures for people with physical or sensory disabilities.

Further information and full details for individual local authorities are published on [StatsWales](#).

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## Registers of people with learning disabilities

**Table 1: Number of people on local authority registers with learning disabilities by type of accommodation and age, at 31 March 2019 (a)**

	Aged under 16	Aged 16-64 (b)	Aged 65 and over (b)	Total
<b>Placements in community settings (b)</b>	<b>2,297</b>	<b>7,962</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>11,001</b>
Own home	.	1,201	223	1,424
Living with parents or family	2,173	4,725	167	7,065
Foster home	124	100	5	229
Lodgings/supported living	0	1,936	347	2,283
<b>Placements in residential establishments (b)</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1,561</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>1,926</b>
Health service accommodation	0	99	9	108
Local authority care homes	8	65	21	94
Private or voluntary care homes	32	941	233	1,206
Other accommodation	5	456	57	518
<b>All accommodation (b)</b>	<b>2,342</b>	<b>10,013</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>13,507</b>

Source: SSDA901

(a) Based on data submitted by 21 local authorities. Caerphilly was unable to provide data due to ICT issues.

(b) Powys could not provide a breakdown of data for individual placement settings for those aged 16 and over; they could only provide totals. Therefore the totals are based on 21 local authorities and the individual placement settings are based on 20 local authorities. As a result, there will be a difference between the sum of the constituent items and the totals.

. The data item is not applicable.

Table 1 shows there were 13,507 people reported on local authority registers with learning disabilities at 31 March 2019, however it was not a full submission from all local authorities. On a comparable basis this was a decrease of 146 people when compared to the previous year.

Based on the placement data provided, 85 per cent were living in community placements and 15 per cent were living in residential establishments. Over half of people on registers were living with parents or family.

Of those people registered with learning disabilities, 17 per cent were aged under 16, 74 per cent were aged between 16 and 64, and 9 per cent were aged 65 and over at 31 March 2019. The proportions have remained fairly stable since 2002 for each age group.

## 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.

**Table 2: Number of people on local authority registers with physical or sensory disabilities by age, at 31 March 2019 (a)**

	Aged under 18	Aged 18-64	Aged 65 and over	Total
<b>Severely sight impaired</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>1,843</b>	<b>4,466</b>	<b>6,484</b>
Severely sight impaired with hearing impairment	11	122	656	789
Severely sight impaired without hearing impairment	164	1,721	3,810	5,695
<b>Sight impaired</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>1,787</b>	<b>4,630</b>	<b>6,653</b>
Sight impaired with hearing impairment	9	75	550	634
Sight impaired without hearing impairment	227	1,712	4,080	6,019
<b>Hearing impaired</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>2,388</b>	<b>8,339</b>	<b>10,863</b>
Deaf with speech	32	503	577	1,112
Deaf without speech	20	307	173	500
Hard of hearing	84	1,578	7,589	9,251
Physical disability only (b)	399	6,741	21,155	28,295
<b>Total physical or sensory disability (b)</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>12,759</b>	<b>38,590</b>	<b>52,295</b>

Source: SSDA900

(a) Based on data submitted by 20 local authorities. Caerphilly and the Vale of Glamorgan were unable to provide data due to ICT issues

(b) Based on data submitted by 18 local authorities. Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil and the Vale of Glamorgan were unable to provide data for all age groups. This will have an impact on the Wales total.

Table 2 shows there were 52,295 people reported on local authority registers with physical or sensory disabilities at 31 March 2019, however it was not a full submission from all local authorities. On a comparable basis, this was a decrease of 2,932 people when compared to the previous year.

At 31 March 2019, 13,137 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.

6,484 people were registered as severely sight impaired. 12 per cent of people with severe sight impairment also had a hearing impairment. 69 per cent of people on the register with severe sight impairment were aged 65 or older.

6,653 people were registered as sight impaired. 10 per cent of people with sight impairment also had a hearing impairment. 70 per cent of people on the register with sight impairment were aged 65 or older.

10,863 people were registered with hearing impairment, of which 85 per cent were hard of hearing.

Based on the data provided, 28,295 people were registered with a physical disability only.

## **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.

### **Deaf with speech**

People who (even with a hearing aid) have little or no useful hearing but whose normal method of communication is by speech and lip-reading.

### **Deaf without speech**

People who have no useful hearing and whose normal method of communication is by signs, finger spelling or writing.

### **Hard of hearing**

People who (with or without a hearing aid) have some useful hearing and whose normal method of communication is by speech, listening and lip-reading.

### **Residential accommodation**

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

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.

### Changes in legislation

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act came into effect on 6 April 2016. It set out significant changes in policy, which in turn impacted on the current national social services data collections. All national social services data returns submitted by local authorities were reviewed in line with the implementation of the Act. New data requirements were expected to be collected from April 2017 through the Disabled people receiving care and support return, however data is still collected based on previous existing arrangements through the SSDA901 (Registers of people with learning disabilities) and SSDA900 (Register of people with physical or sensory disabilities) as future alternative arrangements are being considered.

### Future developments

Data requirements in relation to measuring the impact that the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act is having on people who need care and support and carers who need support are currently being reviewed. It is intended that new data will be collected from April 2021.

## 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 and coherence.

### Relevance

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor adult and children's 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 are:

- ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- the Health and Social Services Group in the Welsh Government;
- other areas of the Welsh Government;
- local authorities;
- the third sector (e.g. charities);
- 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;
- the Scottish Government, Analytical Services Division;
- the Department of Health in England;
- the Department for Education in England.

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

- advice to ministers;
- to inform national social services policy development;
- local authority analysis;
- to inform the Care Inspectorate Wales and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales
- to assist in research on people with disabilities on social services registers.

### Accuracy

The Welsh Government worked with local authorities to collect statistics on the people on disability registers through the [SSDA900 \(Register of people with physical or sensory disabilities\)](#) and [SSDA901 \(Registers of people with learning disabilities\) returns](#). 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. Data adhere to the national standards and guidance, thus ensuring coherence within and across organisations. Local

authorities are expected to comply with the guidance notes for completion that accompany the data collection forms.

The figures in this release reflect the final position of the 2018-19 reporting year, and are correct as at 31 March 2019. Quality assurance was undertaken with local authorities. Not all local authorities provided complete returns. One local authority (Caerphilly) was unable to provide any figures due to ICT issues. One local authority (the Vale of Glamorgan) was unable to provide figures for people with physical or sensory disabilities. One local authority (Powys) was unable to provide a full age breakdown for people with learning disabilities.

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.

### **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.

### **Timeliness and punctuality**

The Data Collection team within the Welsh Government collected data, for the year 2018-19 i.e. from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, between May and July 2019. Data in this release refers to final 2018-19 data. Once submitted data has been validated, this release is drafted and published as soon as possible. This release was published in October 2019, meeting the planned date of publication.

### **Accessibility and clarity**

This statistical first release is pre-announced and then published on the [Statistics and Research](#) 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.

### **Comparability and coherence**

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.

Where comparisons have been made with the previous year's data, only those local authorities that have provided data for both years have been included.

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.

[England's Health and Care of People with Learning Disabilities Experimental Statistics](#) (NHS Digital)

[England's Registered Blind and Partially Sighted People](#) (NHS Digital)

[Scotland's Learning Disability Statistics Scotland](#) (Scottish Commission for Learning Disability)

[Scotland's Registered Blind and Partially Sighted statistics](#) (Scottish Government)

Additional information on eye care in [Scotland: Ophthalmic Statistics](#) (NHS Scotland ISD)

[Northern Ireland's Department of Health statistics](#) (Northern Ireland Executive)

## **National Statistics status**

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

These statistics last underwent a full [assessment](#) against the Code of Practice in 2012. Since assessment we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

- Continually working to improve the quality of data
- Ensuring data is published in an accessible format on StatsWales
- Considering whether user needs could be better met through other data sources

## **Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)**

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must



be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

## **Further details**

The document is available at:

<https://gov.wales/local-authority-registers-people-disabilities-31-march-2019>

Data at local authority level is available on [StatsWales](#).

## **Next update**

October 2020 (Provisional)

## **We want your feedback**

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to [stats.pss@gov.wales](mailto:stats.pss@gov.wales).

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