

## Carers and Disability

### ***Introduction***

An extensive amount of information on disability is now collected on the Family Resources Survey (FRS); it now stands as one of the key sources of information on the adult and child disabled populations.

The estimates for disabled cover the number of people with a long standing illness, disability or infirmity, and who have a significant difficulty with day-to-day activities.

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 as the FRS does not fully collect this information.

The FRS collects information on those giving and receiving help on an informal basis; that is, not as part of a paid job. What should be counted as care is not prescriptively defined. Respondents are asked if anyone in the household receives care, or if anyone gives care to anyone living outside the household. Questions are then asked about who is receiving the help or being looked after. There are then follow-up questions for each person named about who provides the help and the frequency. Note that the follow-up questions are only asked for those receiving help at least once a week.

Information on carers and those receiving care is used within the DWP in the modelling of benefits, such as Carer's Allowance, and Disability Living Allowance, as well as in analyses of work incentive issues.

### ***Contents and points to note when interpreting tables***

Tables **6.1** to **6.4** look at those providing care. Carers are counted only once, even if they look after more than one individual. Carers outside the household are not included in these tables as they are not identified individually within the questionnaire, and they may also produce instances of double counting.

Tables **6.2** and **6.4** show information on all informal carers. Tables **6.1** and **6.3** only show adult informal carers. This is because Table **6.3** looks at employment status while there are small sample sizes in Table **6.1**.

Table **6.1** provides analysis of adult informal carers by age, sex and frequency of care.

Table **6.2** looks at the sex of the carer and their relationship with the person being cared for. Those giving care to more than one person have been combined into one group. For non-household members, more than one person receiving care means more than one entry in either the 'relative', 'friend/neighbour', 'client of voluntary organisation' or 'other non-household' group. However, if someone cared for more than one 'friend/neighbour', for example, this would not be picked up by the questionnaire.

Table **6.3** shows the sex and employment status of adult carers, using International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions of employment in harmonisation with other government

surveys. The employment status categories for student, looking after family/home and temporarily sick/injured are aggregated with 'other inactive'.

Tables 6.5 and 6.6 look at household members receiving care. An individual is recorded as receiving care if they receive care from another person in the household, and/or from someone outside the household. They are counted only once no matter how many people provide care to them. In the 2005-06 sample, the number receiving care was lower than the number providing care (3,204 and 5,472 respectively). This will be, in part, because many recipients of care received help from more than one person within their household – each of whom was recorded as a separate carer.

Table 6.5 provides analysis of household members receiving care by sex and frequency of care.

Tables 6.4 and 6.6 show the main source of income received by the households in which the carer and the person being cared for live, by sex. 'Main source' is calculated as the category of income that gives the highest amount, and results should be interpreted with caution since some households may have more than one source that provides similar proportions.

Comparison of the 2001-02 FRS data with census information suggested that the FRS under-reported those giving care. This is further supported by comparisons with the General Household Survey's (GHS) modules on informal care, which suggest that the FRS under-reports both those receiving and those giving care. This is particularly where care is required less frequently and may be accounted for by the way the questions are asked. On the FRS, questions are asked as part of the household schedule, and, unlike the GHS, it is not always the case that the person providing or giving the care is addressed directly. GHS data therefore provide a more complete picture of all types of informal care. Uses of FRS data, such as in the modelling of benefits such as Carer's Allowance, are applicable to those requiring more frequent caring.

It should also be noted that the FRS does not record information on individuals in nursing or retirement homes. This means that figures relating to the most elderly individuals may not be representative of the United Kingdom population, as many of those who require care at this age will have moved into homes where they can receive more frequent help.

### ***Key definitions used***

***(for a full explanation of all definitions please refer to the Glossary)***

- Adult
- Age
- Child
- Disability, including limiting long standing illness
- Employment status
- Household
- Individuals
- Informal carers
- Main source of weekly household income
- Sources of income
- Total weekly household income

### ***Changes to tables between 2004-05 and 2005-06***

No changes have been made.

**Table 6.1: Adult informal carers by sex, age and number of hours per week providing care**

Percentage of informal carers

Age	Less than 5	5 but less than 10	10 but less than 20	20 but less than 35	35 but less than 50	50 or more	Varies, less than 35 hours	Varies, more than 35 hours	Undefined	Sample size (=100%)
<b>All carers</b>										
16-24	37	22	11	8	4	4	4	9	0	223
25-34	36	22	13	7	3	8	3	7	-	494
35-44	34	23	12	7	4	11	4	6	-	1,129
45-54	32	24	17	7	3	8	3	5	0	1,225
55-59	27	24	18	9	4	8	4	6	-	736
60-64	28	21	14	10	6	12	3	5	-	577
65-74	27	18	14	9	5	16	4	9	0	712
75+	27	11	10	7	6	20	3	15	1	376
<b>All male carers</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,073</b>
<b>All female carers</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,399</b>
<b>All carers</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,472</b>

**Table 6.2: Informal carers by relationship to person being cared for and whether living in or outside the household**

Person being cared for	Carers		Percentage of informal carers
	Male	Female	All informal carers
<b>Household member</b>			
Parent	6	8	7
Partner/spouse/cohabitee	21	14	16
Son/Daughter	7	4	5
Brother/Sister	2	1	1
Other relative	2	1	1
Non relative	1	1	1
<b>Non-household member</b>			
Relative	45	52	49
Friend/neighbour	9	10	10
Client of voluntary organisation	1	1	1
Other non-household	1	-	1
More than one person cared for	7	8	8
<i>Sample size (=100%)</i>	2,143	3,484	5,627

**Table 6.3: Adult informal carers by employment status and sex**

Employment status	Percentage of adults					
	Adult carers			All adults		
	Male	Female	All adult carers	Male	Female	All adults
Employee						
full time	42	25	<b>32</b>	51	31	<b>41</b>
part time	4	22	<b>15</b>	5	19	<b>12</b>
Self employed						
full time	10	2	<b>5</b>	9	2	<b>6</b>
part time	2	3	<b>3</b>	1	2	<b>2</b>
ILO unemployed	3	2	<b>2</b>	4	2	<b>3</b>
Retired	22	22	<b>22</b>	18	25	<b>22</b>
Permanently sick/disabled	9	6	<b>7</b>	6	6	<b>6</b>
Other inactive	7	18	<b>14</b>	5	13	<b>9</b>
<i>Sample size (=100%)</i>	<i>2,073</i>	<i>3,399</i>	<i>5,472</i>	<i>23,183</i>	<i>26,137</i>	<i><b>49,320</b></i>

**Table 6.4: Informal carers by sex, main source of total weekly household income and hours caring**

Main source of household income	Percentage of informal carers					
	Number of hours per week					
	Less than 5	5 but less than 10	10 but less than 20	20 but less than 35	35 but less than 50	50 or more
Wages and salaries	62	61	53	48	37	24
Self employment income	8	8	8	9	3	2
Investments	1	1	1	-	0	-
Tax Credits	1	1	1	2	3	2
Retirement Pension plus any IS/PC	9	9	13	15	22	27
Other pensions	11	9	9	9	12	9
Social Security disability benefits	2	2	4	5	9	12
Other Social Security benefits	5	7	9	10	15	22
Other sources	1	1	2	1	1	-
<i>Sample size (=100%)</i>	<i>1,687</i>	<i>1,216</i>	<i>815</i>	<i>447</i>	<i>258</i>	<i>615</i>

**Table 6.4: Continued**

Main source of household income	Percentage of informal carers					
	Number of hours per week					
	Varies, less than 35 hours	Varies, more than 35 hours	Undefined	All male carers	All female carers	All carers
Wages and salaries	49	36	.	52	52	52
Self employment income	5	4	.	7	6	7
Investments	2	1	.	1	1	1
Tax Credits	1	1	.	1	2	1
Retirement Pension plus any IS/PC	12	24	.	14	13	14
Other pensions	7	7	.	11	9	10
Social Security disability benefits	6	10	.	5	5	5
Other Social Security benefits	17	17	.	9	10	10
Other sources	1	1	.	1	1	1
<i>Sample size (=100%)</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>374</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>2,143</i>	<i>3,484</i>	<i>5,627</i>

**Table 6.5: Household members receiving care by sex, age and frequency of care**

Age	Frequency of help					Sample size (=100%)
	Continuously	Several times a day	Once or twice a day	Several times a week	Once a week	
0-15	75	10	10	3	2	240
16-24	.	.	.	.	.	90
25-34	28	30	13	24	6	144
35-44	36	21	16	15	12	242
45-54	33	24	18	18	6	307
55-59	31	28	19	13	10	234
60-64	30	25	19	18	8	262
65-74	29	21	17	22	12	555
75-84	23	17	18	25	16	710
85+	23	16	21	26	14	420
<b>All males receiving care</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1,362</b>
<b>All females receiving care</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1,842</b>
<b>All those receiving care</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3,204</b>

**Table 6.6: Household members receiving care by main source of total weekly household income and sex**

Main source of household income	Individuals receiving care			Percentage of individuals All individuals		
	Male	Female	All receiving care	Male	Female	All individuals
	Wages and salaries	19	17	<b>18</b>	63	59
Self employment income	2	2	<b>2</b>	8	7	<b>7</b>
Investments	1	1	<b>1</b>	1	1	<b>1</b>
Tax Credits	1	1	<b>1</b>	2	2	<b>2</b>
Retirement Pension plus any IS/PC	32	49	<b>42</b>	9	13	<b>11</b>
Other pensions	11	8	<b>9</b>	6	6	<b>6</b>
Social Security disability benefits	16	8	<b>11</b>	2	2	<b>2</b>
Other Social Security benefits	18	14	<b>16</b>	8	9	<b>9</b>
Other sources	-	1	<b>1</b>	2	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Sample size (=100%)</b>	<b>1,362</b>	<b>1,842</b>	<b>3,204</b>	<b>31,075</b>	<b>33,658</b>	<b>64,733</b>

**Table 6.7: Individuals by disability, including long standing limiting illness, by age and sex**

Age	Percentage of individuals					Sample size (=100%)
	Individuals with a disability		Individuals without a disability			
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
0-15	4	2	48	46	13,848	
16-24	3	3	47	46	6,187	
25-34	5	4	45	46	7,777	
35-44	7	7	43	44	9,671	
45-54	10	11	39	40	8,376	
55-59	13	14	37	36	4,287	
60-64	17	18	32	34	3,747	
65-74	20	21	28	31	6,090	
75-84	22	32	19	27	3,799	
85+	22	47	11	21	951	
<b>All individuals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>64,733</b>	

**Table 6.8: Adults with a disability, including limiting long standing illness, by employment status and sex**

Employment status	Percentage of adults					
	Individuals with a disability			All individuals		
	Male	Female	All with a disability	Male	Female	All individuals
Employee						
full time	19	11	15	51	31	41
part time	3	8	6	5	19	12
Self employed						
full time	4	1	3	9	2	6
part time	1	1	1	1	2	2
ILO unemployed	3	1	2	4	2	3
Retired	39	50	45	18	25	22
Permanently sick/disabled	27	21	23	6	6	6
Other inactive	4	7	5	5	13	9
<i>Sample size (=100%)</i>	5,442	6,380	11,822	23,183	26,137	49,320

**Table 6.9: Individuals with a disability, including limiting long standing illness, by main source of total weekly household income and sex**

Main source of household income	Percentage of individuals					
	Individuals with a disability			All individuals		
	Male	Female	All with a disability	Male	Female	All individuals
Wages and salaries	33	31	<b>32</b>	63	59	<b>61</b>
Self employment income	4	4	<b>4</b>	8	7	<b>7</b>
Investments	1	1	<b>1</b>	1	1	<b>1</b>
Tax Credits	1	1	<b>1</b>	2	2	<b>2</b>
Retirement Pension plus any IS/PC	24	34	<b>29</b>	9	13	<b>11</b>
Other pensions	12	11	<b>11</b>	6	6	<b>6</b>
Social Security disability benefits	9	5	<b>7</b>	2	2	<b>2</b>
Other Social Security benefits	15	12	<b>13</b>	8	9	<b>9</b>
Other sources	1	1	<b>1</b>	2	2	<b>2</b>
<i>Sample size (=100%)</i>	<i>6,018</i>	<i>6,742</i>	<b><i>12,760</i></b>	<i>31,075</i>	<i>33,658</i>	<b><i>64,733</i></b>