

'Is Britain Fairer?': Key facts and findings on disabled people

'Is Britain Fairer?' (2015) is the Equality and Human Rights Commission's five-yearly review of equality and human rights in Britain. This factsheet captures some of the key findings on disabled people.

Disability is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. The Act prohibits unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; protects individuals from unfair treatment; and promotes a fair and more equal society. It protects disabled people from discrimination in a variety of fields, including employment, education, the exercise of public functions and the provision of services. Figures from the Office of National Statistics and National Records of Scotland indicate that there were **10.6 million disabled people** (adults and children) living in Britain in 2011.

Disabled people experience higher levels of bullying and exclusion in schools and have lower levels of attainment



In Britain, **12.7% of young people** with a Longstanding Limiting Illness or Disability (LLID) were recorded as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in 2013 compared with **6.8%** of non-LLID young people.



In Britain, **58%** of children and young people with a physical disability, **62%** of children and young people with a learning disability, and **67%** of children and young people with autism/Asperger's reported being bullied in 2013, compared with **40%** of non-disabled children and young people.

Across Britain, secondary school children with special educational needs (SEN) had a lower level of academic attainment than those without SEN in 2013.



In England, only 23.4% of children with SEN achieved at least five A*-C GCSEs, compared with 70.4% of children without SEN.



In Wales, only 16.8% of children with SEN achieved at least five A*-C GCSEs, compared with 63.2% of children without SEN.



In Scotland, pupils with Additional Support Needs (ASN) had a lower average tariff score (136 points) compared with pupils without ASN (203 points) in 2012/13.



Children with SEN in England and Wales, and children with ASN in Scotland, had higher exclusion rates than those without in 2012/13.

In England, children with SEN had an exclusion rate of 116.2 per 1,000 pupils, compared with 17.0 per 1,000 pupils without SEN. In Wales, children with SEN had an exclusion rate of 96.5 per 1,000 pupils, compared with 20.1 per 1,000 pupils without SEN. In Scotland, children with ASN had an exclusion rate of 89.5 per 1,000, compared with 20.4 per 1,000 children with no identified ASN.



The percentage of disabled people in Britain with no qualifications in 2013 was 20.6%, whereas the percentage of non-disabled people with no qualifications was 7.2%.

Disabled people were less likely than non-disabled people to have a degree-level qualification (16.4% compared with 31.1%) in 2013.



Disabled people experience lower employment rates and pay

In Britain, employment rates for disabled and non-disabled people were 47.5% and 78.3% respectively in 2013.



The average hourly earnings of disabled people was £9.70 per hour in 2013, which was £1.00 per hour less than that of non-disabled people (£10.60 per hour).

Disabled people are particularly affected by changes to housing benefit



The Department for Work and Pensions' equality impact assessment of the under-occupancy ruling (also known as the 'bedroom tax') indicated that a higher proportion of disabled people than non-disabled people would be affected. Combined with the shortage of adapted and affordable accommodation, the under-occupancy ruling could result in disabled people downsizing (this might, in turn, mean that people move into properties that are not suitable for their needs), or facing rent arrears or even eviction.

Records from 2014 indicated there could be up to 300,000 disabled people on housing waiting lists in Britain.



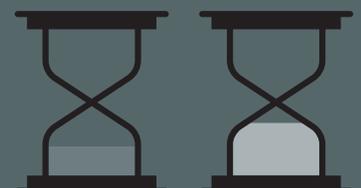
Disabled people have poorer health outcomes

Across Britain, disabled people are more likely to report bad health. In England, 0.7% of non-disabled people reported bad health in 2012, compared with 28.7% of disabled people. In Wales, during the same period, 0.2% of non-disabled people reported bad health in 2012, compared with 16.6% of disabled people. In Scotland, 0.4% of non-disabled people reported bad health, compared with 26.4% of disabled people.

Across Britain, disabled people were more likely to be at risk of poor mental health. In England, 34.9% of disabled people were at risk of poor mental health, compared with 9.9% of non-disabled people. In Wales, 52.2% of disabled people were at risk, compared with 19.6% of non-disabled people. In Scotland, 26.9% of disabled people were at risk, compared with 10.0% of non-disabled people.



In England, in 2012, the average age of death of people whose death certificates indicate they had a learning disability was 58. Comparing this with a median age of 82 across the country indicates a reduction in life expectancy of around 24 years.



Disabled people felt more unsafe and reported higher levels of hate crime than non-disabled people



In England and Wales, the percentage of crime survey respondents who said they felt very unsafe or unsafe being alone at home and/or in their local area during the day or after dark was higher for disabled people (45% in England, 36.0% in Wales), compared with people who were not disabled (27.9% in England, 26.0% in Wales) in 2012/13.

In Scotland, during the same period, the percentage of disabled people who felt unsafe being alone at home at night or walking alone in their local area after dark was 42.4%, compared with 24.2% of non-disabled people.



In England, the percentage of disabled crime survey respondents who reported being a victim of hate crime was double that of non-disabled respondents in 2012/13 (0.6% compared with 0.3%). There are no equivalent data available for Scotland.



The number of disability hate crime incidents recorded by police in 2013/14 was **1,985** in England and Wales and **154** in Scotland.

The number of convictions for hate crime in 2013/14 was 470 in England and Wales and 41 in Scotland.



Many disabled people are politically active though some believe they have less influence than non-disabled people

In England, 31.7% of disabled people said they were involved in political activities, such as lobbying or protesting, in 2013/14. A different measure of political activity was used in Scotland. **In Scotland**, 61.2% of disabled people in 2013 had been politically active in the last few years. There were no data available for Wales.

Disabled people in England, Scotland and Wales were less likely than non-disabled people in 2013/14 to feel they could influence their local area. **In England**, 30.1% of disabled people compared with 35.5% of those who were not disabled felt this. **In Scotland**, 18.8% and 22.9% respectively felt this in 2013. **In Wales**, 20.9% and 25.2% felt this during 2013/14. Country data are not comparable.

