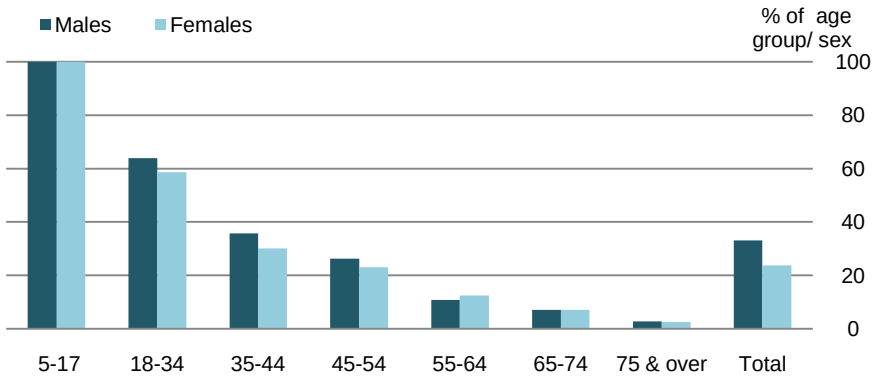
Chapter 6 Education

This section examines participation in education by people with a disability. For persons aged 5 & over whose disability affected them before they completed full time education, the NDS asked about: the level of education they were at when they began to have difficulty with their disability; the mainstream and special classes that they attended; the adaptations and facilities that they required to enable them to participate in education; the overall extent to which their disability curtailed their participation in education and, finally, the specific reasons for this. It should be noted that the experiences reported by older respondents may relate to some considerable time in the past and that some of the services and facilities asked about may not have been available at that time.

6.1 People limited or affected before leaving full-time education

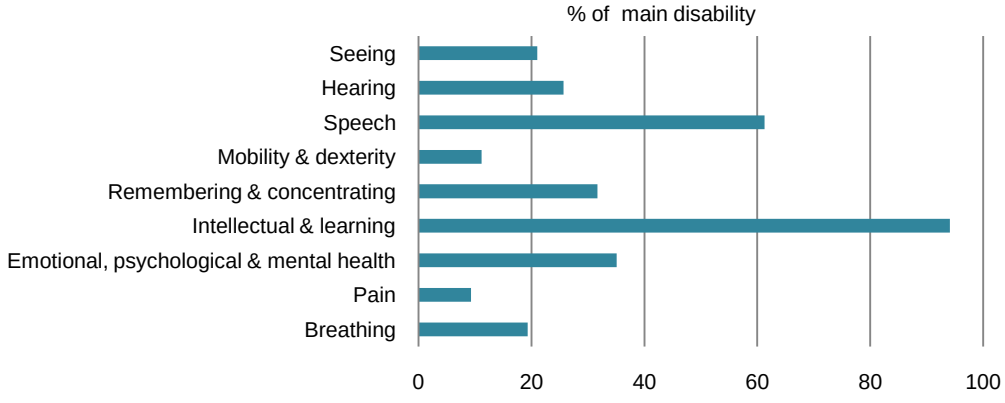
The NDS asked respondents whether or not their disability had limited or affected them before they completed their full-time education. As illustrated in Graph 6.1, 28% of all persons with a disability were limited or affected by their disability before completing their full-time education. With the exception of the 5-17 age group, males in the age groups up to 55 years were more likely to have been limited or affected by their disability before they completed their full-time education.

Graph 6.1 People aged 5 & over limited or affected by their disability before completing full-time education by sex and age group



There was substantial variation by main disability type (see Graph 6.2). A very high proportion of persons whose main disability was Intellectual & learning (94%) reported that their disability limited or affected them before leaving full-time education, while 61% of those whose main disability was Speech were affected at this stage. This may be related to the fact that 38% of persons whose main disability was Intellectual and learning, and 29% of those whose main disability was Speech were under 18. This compares with an overall average of 10% across all main disability groups.

Graph 6.2 People aged 5 & over limited or affected by their disability before leaving full-time education by main disability



6.2 Level of education when difficulty began

Those who were limited or affected by their disability before leaving full-time education were asked a number of follow-up questions. Firstly, they were asked what level of education they were in at the time they began to have difficulty due to their disability.

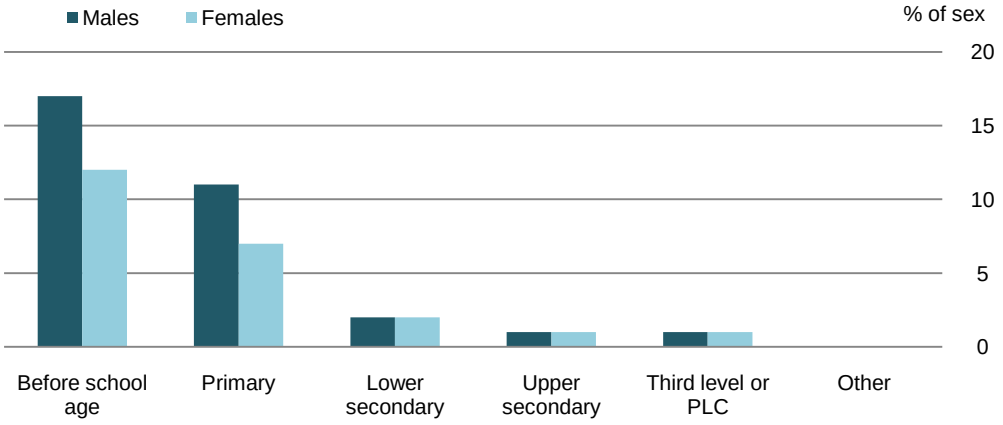
Of all persons aged 5 & over, 14% were first limited or affected by their disability before school age and a further 9% were limited or affected at primary school level (see Table 6.3). People living in hospitals, nursing homes and children's homes were limited or affected earlier in their education.

Table 6.3 People aged 5 & over limited or affected by disability before completing full time education by level of education at onset of difficulty and accommodation type

	% of row						persons	%
Accommodation type	**Before school age**	**Primary**	**Lower secondary**	**Upper secondary**	**Third level or PLC**	**Other**	**Persons with a disability**	**Percent limited before completing full time education**
Persons	**46,000**	**29,800**	**7,400**	**3,800**	**2,900**	**1,100**	**322,300**	
Persons %	**14**	**9**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**322,300**	**28**
Private households	14	10	2	1	1	0	**296,600**	29
Communal establishments	17	4	1	0	-	0	**25,600**	23

Graph 6.4 shows the proportions of males and females who were limited or affected by their disability before completing full-time education, broken down by the level of education they had reached when they first began having difficulty. Males were more likely than females to have been affected by their disability at an early stage of their education. While 17% of males aged 5 and over with a disability were first limited or affected before school age the equivalent figure for females was 12%. Similarly, while around 11% of males were first limited or affected while they were at primary school, the figure for females was 7%.

Graph 6.4 People aged 5 & over limited or affected by their disability by level of education at onset of difficulty and sex



As shown in Table 6.5, those with Intellectual & learning as their main disability were most affected in the early stages of their education - 54% began to experience difficulty before school age and a further 36% were limited or affected while still at primary school. Those with Speech as their main disability were most limited or affected before school age (55%).

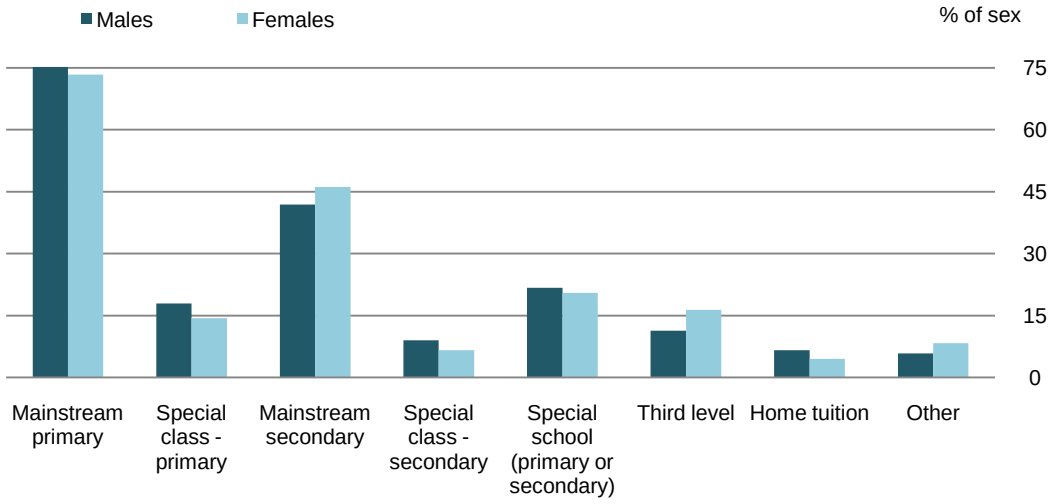
Table 6.5 People aged 5 & over limited or affected by their disability before completing full-time education by main disability

						% of row	persons	%
Main disability	**Before school age**	**Primary**	**Lower secondary**	**Upper secondary**	**Third level or PLC**	**Other**	**Persons with a disability**	**Percent limited before completing full time education**
Persons	**46,000**	**29,800**	**7,400**	**3,800**	**2,900**	**1,100**	**322,300**	
Persons %	**14**	**9**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**322,300**	**28**
Seeing	13	6	2	1	0	-	**14,900**	21
Hearing	15	7	2	1	0	1	**22,100**	26
Speech	55	4	1	-	0	0	**5,800**	61
Mobility & dexterity	6	2	1	1	1	0	**88,400**	11
Remembering & concentrating	12	15	2	2	0	-	**19,200**	32
Intellectual & learning	54	36	3	1	0	0	**38,400**	94
Emotional, psychological & mental health	10	10	7	4	3	1	**45,100**	35
Pain	3	3	2	1	1	0	**62,500**	9
Breathing	11	7	1	0	0	-	**26,000**	19

6.3 Classes attended

People who were limited or affected by their disability before completing full-time education were asked which classes they were attending or had attended in the past. Overall, three-quarters of persons aged 5 and over who were limited or affected by their disability before completing full-time education attended, or had previously attended, Mainstream/regular primary class (see Graph 6.6). The next most frequently attended type of class was Mainstream/regular secondary (44%). Around 21% of persons aged 5 and over who were limited or affected by their disability before completing full-time education attended, or had previously attended, a Special school (primary or secondary).

Graph 6.6 People aged 5 & over limited or affected by their disability before completing full-time education by class type and sex[23]



[23] Respondents were permitted to indicate more than one class type, so the graph does not necessarily depict the highest level of schooling attained.

There was significant variation between the main disability groups in the proportion of persons who attended, or who had previously attended, the different types of class (see Table 6.7). Higher proportions of those with Intellectual & learning, Speech or Remembering & concentrating as their main disability participated in special classes and classes in special schools. Around 30% of those whose main disability was Intellectual & learning reported that they had attended a special school, while the figures for those with Speech or Hearing as their main disability were 27% and 25% respectively. People with Speech or Intellectual & learning as their main disability were less likely to attend Third level. For example, 2% of persons who were limited or affected by disability before completing full-time education with Speech as their main disability attended Third level compared with the average of 14%.

Table 6.7 People aged 5 & over limited or affected by disability before completing full-time education by type of classes attended and main disability type

% of row persons

Main disability	Type of classes (see key-code under table)								Persons limited / affected before completing education
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	
Persons	**67,800**	**14,900**	**39,900**	**7,200**	**19,300**	**12,300**	**5,200**	**6,300**	**91,100**
Persons %	**74**	**16**	**44**	**8**	**21**	**14**	**6**	**7**	**91,100**
Seeing	84	14	56	7	16	14	2	7	3,100
Hearing	76	9	51	4	25	18	4	5	5,700
Speech	59	19	16	4	27	2	5	7	3,500
Mobility & dexterity	74	7	47	3	20	17	5	8	9,900
Remembering & concentrating	84	22	47	13	15	15	8	4	6,100
Intellectual & learning	66	24	32	11	30	8	7	7	36,100
Emotional, psychological & mental health	82	12	57	6	14	21	5	8	15,800
Pain	85	6	65	3	9	25	3	4	5,800
Breathing	94	6	56	5	3	14	3	5	5,000

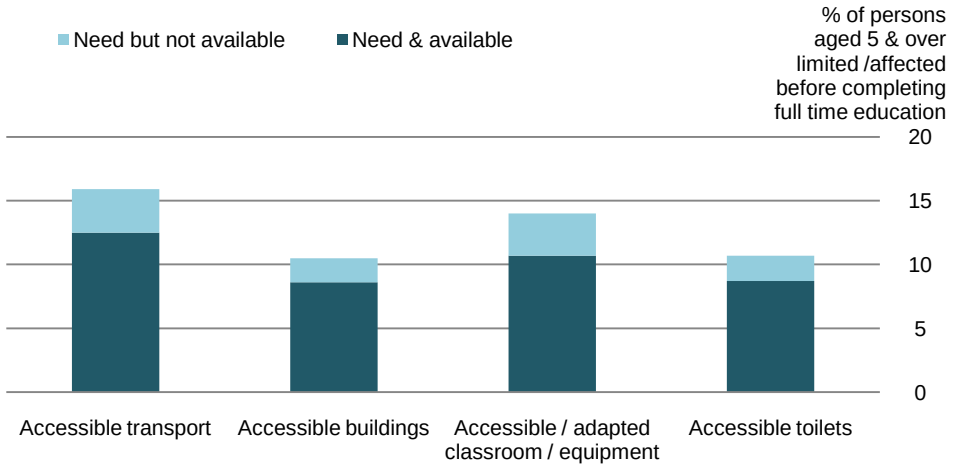
Key-code:
A = Mainstream primary; **B** = Special class - primary; **C** = Mainstream secondary; **D** = Special class - secondary; **E** = Special school (primary or secondary); **F** = Third level; **G** = Home tuition; **H** = Other.

6.4 Modifications required to attend school or college

People in private households who had been limited or affected by disability before finishing full-time education were asked whether or not they required modified features to enable them attend school or college. Respondents who indicated that they needed modified features were asked whether these features were (or had been) available to them.

Accessible transport was the most commonly required modified feature (see Graph 6.8). Altogether, this was needed by 16% of persons in private households who had been limited/affected by disability before completing their full-time education. Within this group, three quarters reported that they were able to access this service, with the remainder needing accessible transport but unable to get it. Accessible or adapted classrooms or equipment were required by 14% of persons in order to attend school or college. Almost three-quarters of this group had access to the required modified features. The other modified features - Accessible buildings and Accessible toilets - were needed by around 10% of respondents. In both cases, more than four-fifths of persons indicating a need for these features reported that they were available to them.

Graph 6.8 People aged 5 & over in private households needing modified features to attend school or college by availability

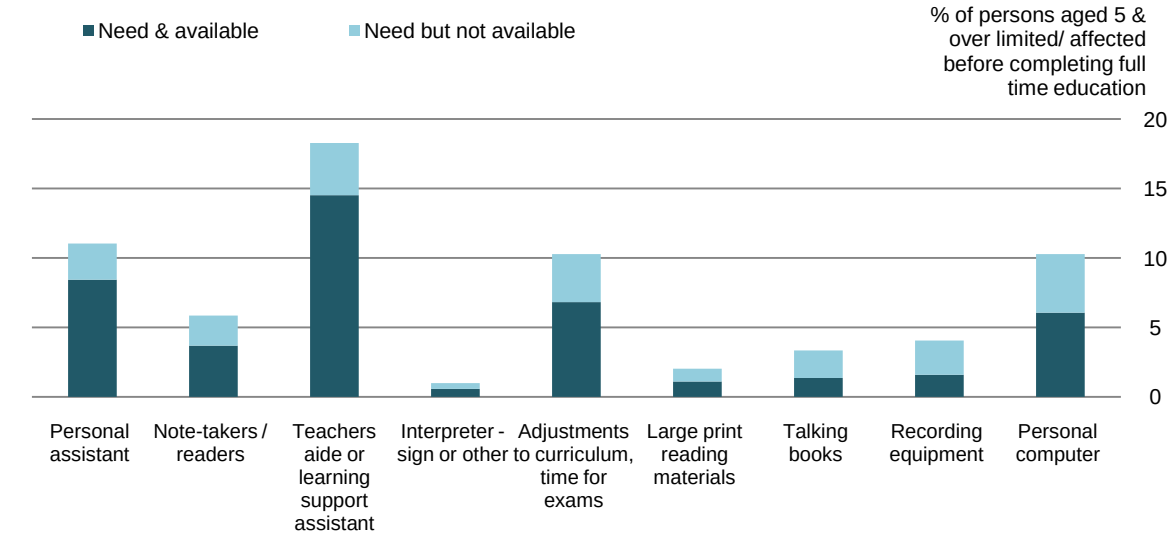


6.5 Assistance required to follow courses or take exams

People in private households aged 5 and over who were limited or affected by their disability before completing full-time education were asked a further question about whether they required aids to follow educational courses or take exams. Respondents were asked whether or not they needed each of these aids. If they indicated that they did have a need, they were further asked whether or not the aid was or had been available to them.

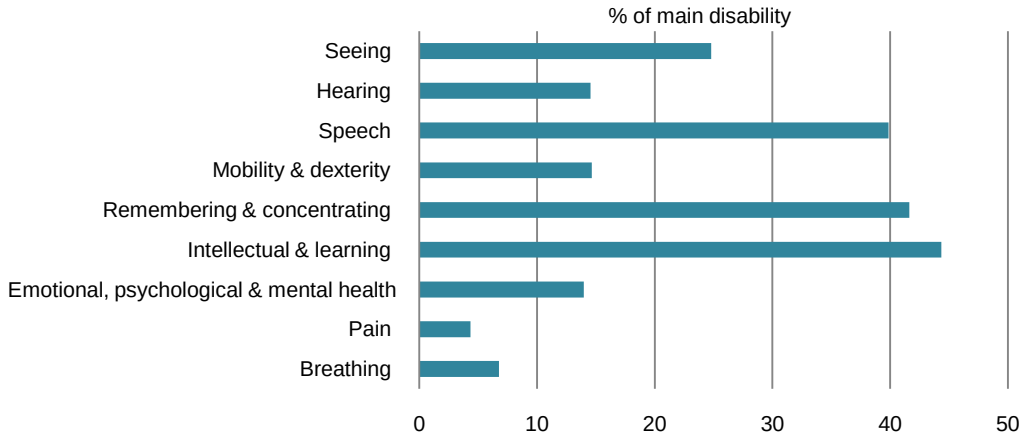
The most common requirement for following courses or taking exams was a Teacher's aide or learning support assistant (see Graph 6.9). Around 14% of persons in private households who were limited or affected by their disability before completing full-time education reported that they needed this facility and that it was available to them. A further 4% indicated that they needed this facility but that it was not available. Personal assistants were required by 11% of respondents, with 8% saying that these were available to them and 3% reporting that they did not have access to this type of assistance. Overall, adjustments to the curriculum/extra time for exams and assignments and Personal computers were needed by around 10% of persons, with most persons who expressed a need able to access these facilities. Almost all of the persons indicating either a met or an unmet need for these aids were in the 5-17 age group. Most respondents indicated that these aids were not relevant or did not exist when they were in full-time education.

Graph 6.9 People aged 5 & over in private households needing aids to follow courses or take exams



There was significant variation in the need for facilities by main disability group. Graph 6.10 shows the percentage of people limited or affected by disability before completing their full-time education who had a need (either met or unmet) for at least one of the nine aids, disaggregated by main disability. Those whose main disabilities were Intellectual & learning, Remembering & concentrating or Speech were most likely to express a need for facilities like Teacher's aides, Personal assistants and Adjustments to the curriculum (see Detailed tables, Tables 6.15 and 6.17).

Graph 6.10 People in private households needing any aid to attend, follow courses or take exams, by main disability type



6.6 Extent to which education was interrupted by absences due to disability

People who indicated that they were limited or affected by their disabilty before completing their full-time education were asked the extent to which their education was interrupted by disabilty related absences.

Half of persons aged 5 & over who were limited or affected by their disability before completing their full-time education reported that their education had not been interrupted by disability-related absences (see Graph 6.11). Around 17% experienced total interruptions of less than three months, 11% experienced aggregate interruptions of 3-12 months, and the remaining 22% suffered interruptions of more than one year in total.

Graph 6.11 People aged 5 & over in private households who experienced interruptions to their education because of their disability by length of total interruptions to-date

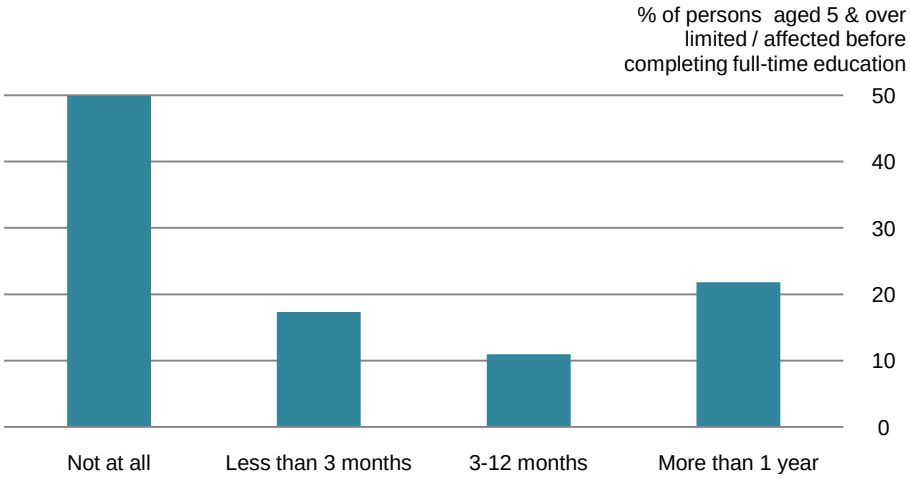


Table 6.12 indicates that there was a wide variation in the percentage of persons who experienced any interruption when analysed by main disability. Around 83% of persons whose main disability was Breathing indicated that they had experienced an interruption to their education, with the duration of these interruptions being quite evenly spread between less than three months and more than one year.

Those whose main disability was Pain (76%) and Mobility & dexterity (71%) were also more likely to have experienced interruptions to their education due to disability related absences. Moreover, these groups contained a higher proportion of persons who had experienced longer absences.

Table 6.12 People aged 5 & over in private households whose education was interrupted by absences by duration and main disability

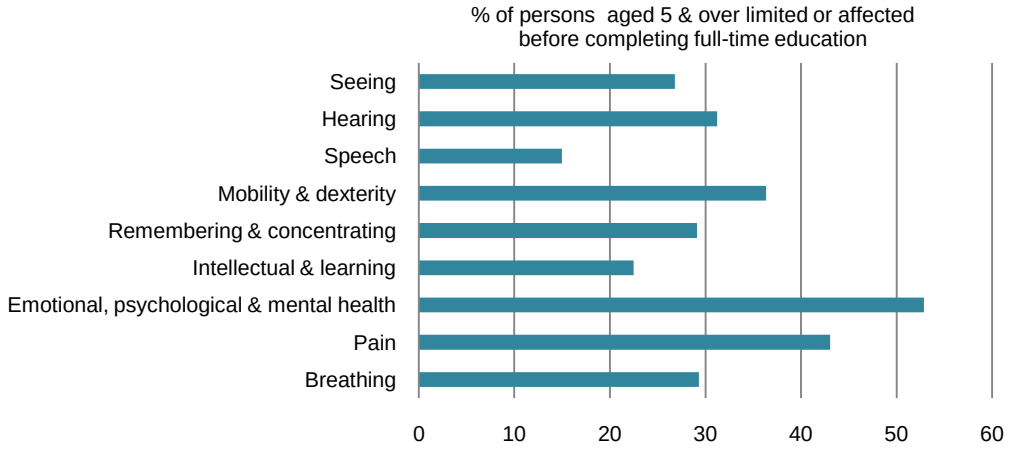
				% of row	persons	%
Main disability	**Not at all**	**Less than 3 months**	**3-12 months**	**More than 1 year**	**Persons affected by disability before leaving full-time education**	**Percent whose education was interrupted**
Persons	**42,500**	**14,800**	**9,400**	**18,600**	**85,200**	
Persons %	**50**	**17**	**11**	**22**	**85,200**	**50**
Seeing	58	19	10	14	3,000	43
Hearing	61	15	12	11	5,500	39
Speech	63	16	8	14	3,300	37
Mobility & dexterity	29	17	14	40	9,500	71
Remembering & concentrating	53	21	9	17	6,000	47
Intellectual & learning	66	15	6	13	33,100	34
Emotional, psychological & mental health	37	18	16	29	14,200	63
Pain	24	16	16	44	5,700	76
Breathing	17	31	24	27	4,900	83

6.7 People who stopped education sooner than they wanted to because of disability

People in private households aged 5 & over who had been limited/affected by their disability before completing their full-time education were asked whether or not they had stopped their education sooner than they wanted to because of their disability. Overall, just under one third (32%) of respondents indicated that they had stopped their education earlier than they intended because of their disability.

Graph 6.13 shows that there was a lot of variation by main disability type in the proportions of persons giving up education sooner than they wanted to because of their disability. Over half (53%) of persons in private households whose main disability was Emotional, psychological & mental health reported that they had stopped education for this reason, compared with 15% of those with Speech as their main disability.

Graph 6.13 People in private households stopping education sooner than they wanted to because of disability, by main disability type

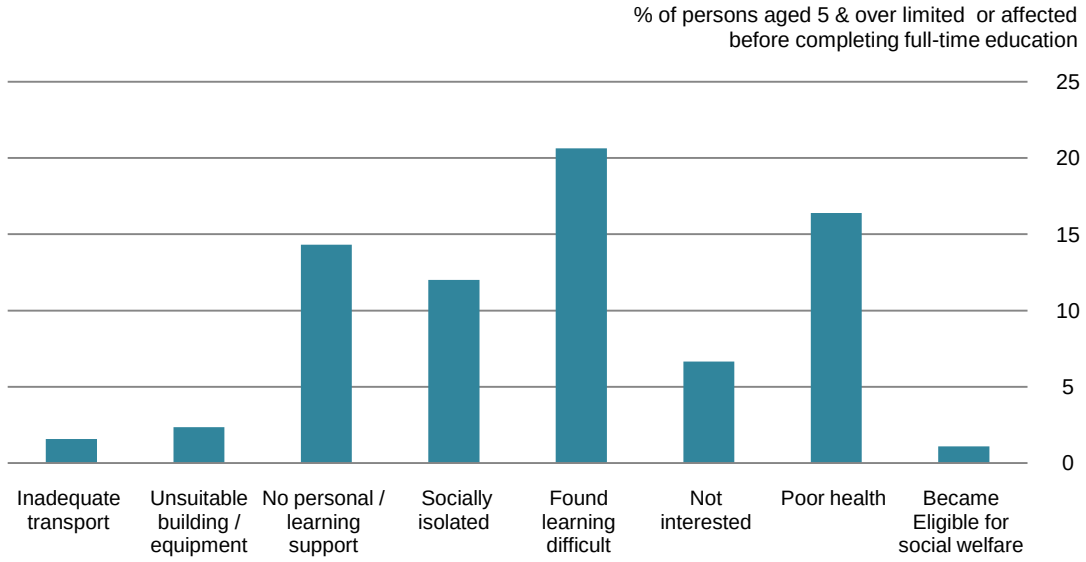


6.8 Detailed reasons for stopping full-time education sooner than they wanted to

Those who indicated that they had stopped education sooner than they wanted to because of their disability were asked a follow-up question to get more detail on the reasons for this, with four reasons listed.

Around one-fifth (21%) of persons aged 5 & over who were limited or affected by their disability before completing full time education indicated that they gave up education sooner than they wanted to because they found learning difficult or found it hard to keep up (see Graph 6.14). Around 16% said the reason was poor health; 14% reported that they did not have the personal or learning support they needed; and 12% said they stopped their education because they felt socially isolated.

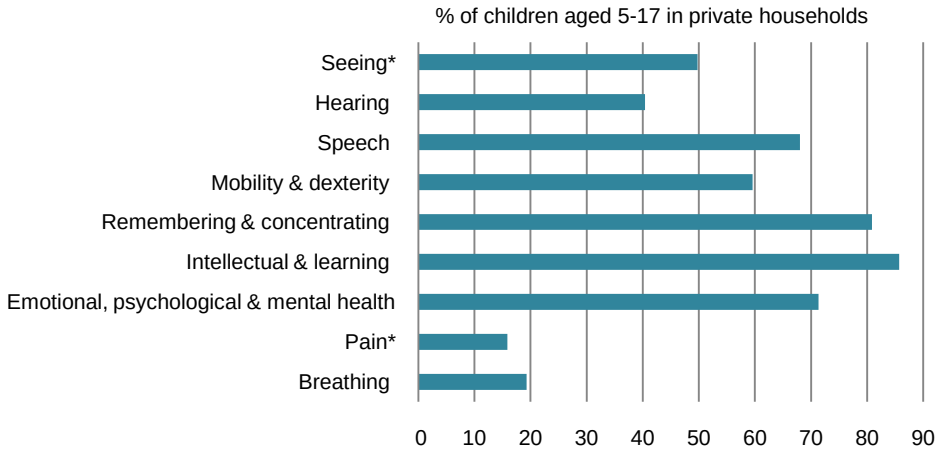
Graph 6.14 People in private households stopping education before they wanted to by detailed reason



6.9 Children with a professional assessment

Children in private households aged between 5 and 17 inclusive were asked whether a professional assessment had ever been carried out to determine their educational needs. Overall, almost three-quarters (73%) of people indicated that they had an assessment. As shown in Graph 6.15, those whose main disability was Intellectual & learning (86%), Remembering & concentrating (81%) or Emotional, psychological & mental health (71%) were most likely to have had a professional assessment.

Graph 6.15 Children with a disability aged 5-17 in private households who had a professional assessment of their educational needs



* Figures are based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

Chapter 7 Work and Training

This chapter provides a summary of some of the issues relating to work and training experiences for people with a disability whose disability limited or affected them while of working age. Adults living in private households were asked if their disability limited or affected them before they reached 65 years of age. Some adults of working age said that although they had a disability this did not affect them in terms of their ability to participate in training or employment activity. This chapter only deals with the experiences of those whose disability did impact on their labour market participation and does not describe the experiences of those of working age who said they were unaffected by their disability.

The questionnaire collected information on a variety of issues around work and training: Main activity status; Questions for people at work: sector of employment; usual working hours; and career advancement. Questions for people not working and those who retired early: reason for leaving job; interest in starting employment; reasons discouraging them from working; work-related training; and aids or features required to be able to work.

7.1 Effect of disability

Two-thirds of adults with a disability in private households said that their disability limited or affected them before the age of 65 (see Table 7.1). Almost a quarter of adults aged 18-34 and 17% of adults aged 34-44 said that their disability did not impact on their labour market participation. Among those in the oldest age group the vast majority (82%) said their disability did not impact on them while of working age as did 37% of those aged 65-74.

Table 7.1 Adults in private households whose disability limited or affected them before 65 years of age by age group

	% of row		adults
Age group	**Yes**	**No**	**Adults with a disability**
Adults	**173,600**	**91,000**	**264,600**
Adults %	**66**	**34**	**264,600**
18-34	76	24	40,200
35-44	83	17	33,900
45-54	84	16	41,400
55-64	86	14	50,600
65-74	63	37	41,700
75 & over	18	82	56,700

Adults with Emotional psychological & mental health (82%) as their main disability had the highest proportion of persons who said that their disability limited or affected them before the age of 65. Adults with Speech (69%), Pain (73%), Intellectual & learning (78%) as their main disability had relatively higher proportions when compared with those whose main disability was Seeing (49%) or Hearing (47%) (see Table 7.2).

Table 7.2 Adults in private households whose disability limited or affected them before 65 years of age by main disability

	% of row		adults
Main disability	**Yes**	**No**	**Adults**
Adults	**173,600**	**91,000**	**264,600**
Adults %	**66**	**34**	**264,600**
Seeing	49	51	13,200
Hearing	47	53	19,800
Speech	69	31	2,500
Mobility & dexterity	59	41	77,400
Remembering & concentrating	55	45	11,800
Intellectual & learning	78	22	17,700
Emotional, psychological & mental health	82	18	38,100
Pain	73	27	60,500
Breathing	62	38	23,600

7.2 Main activity status

Adults who said that their disability limited or affected them before the age of 65 were asked their current main activity status[24]. Table 7.3 shows that nearly half (48%) of the respondents reported they were Unable to work due to permanent illness or disability, ranging from 37% of 18-34 year olds to around 62% of persons aged 45-54 and 55-64. Just under one-third (31%) of respondents aged 18-34 were Working for payment or profit, followed by 28% of persons aged 35-44 and 19% of those aged 45-54.

Table 7.3 Adults in private households whose disability limited or affected them before 65 years of age by main activity status and age group

									% of row	adults
Age group	**Main activity status (see key-code under table)**									**Adults limited before age 65**
	A	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	**H**	**I**	
Adults	**29,200**	**1,100**	**7,000**	**19,600**	**83,300**	**15,600**	**4,000**	**9,100**	**4,700**	**173,600**
Adults %	**17**	**1**	**4**	**11**	**48**	**9**	**2**	**5**	**3**	**173,600**
18-34	31	3	9	0	37	5	10	-	5	30,600
35-44	28	1	6	0	52	10	1	-	4	28,200
45-54	19	0	5	4	62	7	1	-	2	34,600
55-64	11	.	2	15	61	9	1	1	1	43,500
65 & over	2	.	0	31	25	14	-	24	3	36,700

Key-code:
A = Working for payment or profit; **B** = Looking for first regular job; **C** = Unemployed; **D** = Retired early; **E** = Unable to work illness / disability; **F** = Looking after family / home; **G** = Student / pupil; **H** = Retired at normal age; **I** = Other.

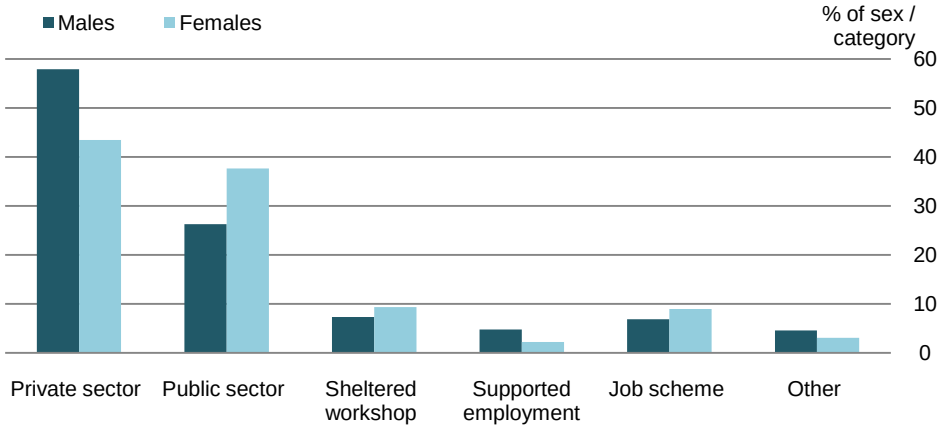
7.3 Adults at work – main job

Respondents who said that their disability limited or affected them before they reached the age of 65 and who categorised their main activity as Working for payment or profit, were subsequently asked three questions about their work: type of present job; usual hours worked; and career advancement.

[24] This does not include people of working age with a disability who said the disability did not limit or affect their ability to participate in the labour market.

Adults who said they were at work, were asked about the sector and type of employment. Of the adults with a disability at work, whose disability limited or affected them before 65 years of age, over half (52%) worked in the Private sector and about one-third (31%) in the Public sector with the remainder working in sheltered employment or scheme of some type (see Graph 7.4 and Table 7.5). Of the male respondents, 58% were working in the Private sector compared with 44% of female respondents (see Graph 7.4). A higher proportion (38%) of female respondents worked in the Public sector compared with 26% of male respondents.

Graph 7.4 Adults in private households at work whose disability limited or affected them before 65 years of age by type of employment



Around 39% of respondents at work aged 45-54 worked in the public sector compared with 24% of those aged 18-34. Around one-in-ten respondents aged 18-34 and 35-44 at work were in Sheltered workshops (see Table 7.5).

Table 7.5 Adults in private households at work whose disability limited or affected them before 65 years of age by type of employment and age group

% of row adults

Age group	Private sector	Public sector	Sheltered workshop	Supported employment	Job scheme	Other	Adults at work
Adults	**15,100**	**9,100**	**2,400**	**1,100**	**2,300**	**1,200**	**29,200**
Adults %	**52**	**31**	**8**	**4**	**8**	**4**	**29,200**
18-34	56	24	11	6	10	2	9,500
35-44	48	35	10	4	4	4	7,800
45-54	48	39	5	2	8	3	6,500
55-64	51	30	4	1	10	9	4,700
65 & over[25]	[75]	[16]	[4]	[-]	[-]	[7]	700

7.4 Adults at work – working hours

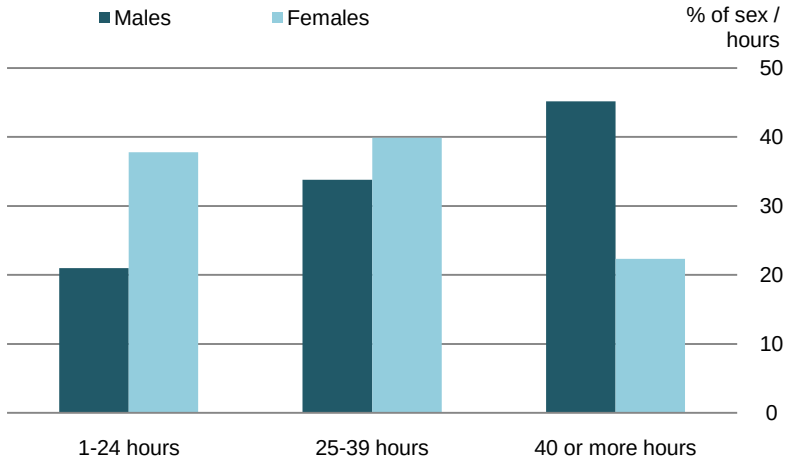
Respondents who said that their disability limited or affected them before they reached the age of 65 and who categorised their main activity as Working for payment or profit, were subsequently asked how many hours did they usually work including any regular paid and unpaid overtime, with all jobs being included for those with more than one job.

The proportion of adults usually working 25-39 hours per week was fairly similar for males (34%) and females (40%) (see Graph 7.6). However, there was a difference for the usual working week of 1-24 hours and 40 or more hours. Over 45% of males usually worked 40 or more hours per week

[25] Figures in parentheses [ ] indicate percentages based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

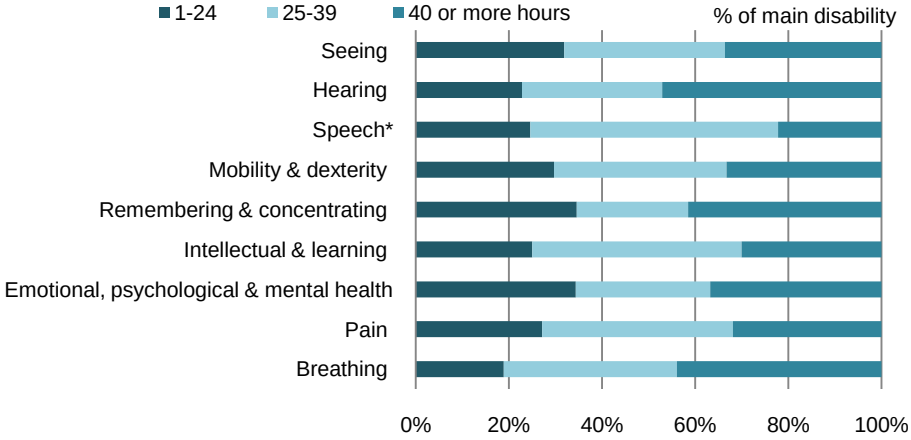
compared with 22% of females, while 38% of females usually worked 1-24 hours per week compared with 21% of males.

Graph 7.6 Adults in private households at work whose disability limited or affected them before 65 years of age by sex and number of hours worked



Adults at work whose main disability was Hearing (47%), Breathing (44%) or Remembering & concentrating (41%) had the highest proportion of adults who usually worked 40 or more hours per week (see Graph 7.7). Over half of adults whose main disability was Speech (53%) usually worked 25-39 hours per week, while around one-third of persons whose main disability was Remembering & concentrating (35%) and Emotional, psychological & mental health (34%) usually worked 1-24 hours per week.

Graph 7.7 Adults in private households at work whose disability limited or affected them before 65 years of age by main disability and number of hours worked



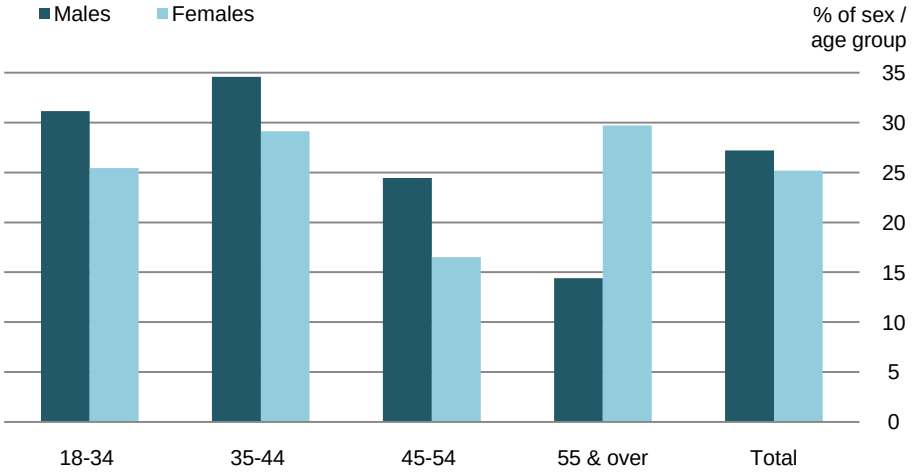
* Figures are based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

7.5 Adults at work – career advancement

Respondents who said that their disability limited or affected them before they reached the age of 65 and who categorised their main activity as Working for payment or profit, were subsequently asked about career advancement – have you ever been promoted, moved to a better job or advanced in your career since you had your disability? This does not include persons of working age for whom their disability did not limit or affect their labour market participation.

Overall, 26% of this group were promoted or moved to a better job or advanced in their career since they had their disability (see Graph 7.8). Up to the age of 54, a higher proportion of male respondents said that they had been promoted etc. since they had their disability. For example, 35% of male respondents aged 35-44 had career advancement compared with 29% of female respondents. However, there was a higher proportion of female respondents aged 55 & over who got promoted or moved to a better job or advanced in their career since they had their disability, 30% compared with 14% of their male counterparts.

Graph 7.8 Adults in private households at work whose disability limited or affected them before 65 years of age and who had been promoted by sex and age group



7.6 Adults not working or retired early – previous work

Respondents who said that their disability limited or affected them before they reached the age of 65 and who categorised their main activity as one of the following: Unemployed; Retired early; Unable to work due to permanent illness or disability; Looking after family/home; or Other, were asked questions on previous work, reasons for leaving the employment and interest in starting employment.

Respondents in this category were first asked if they ever worked in a job or business. Around 83% of respondents who were not at work had previously worked (see Table 7.9). This proportion generally increased with age. For example, 60% of respondents not at work aged 18-34 said they previously worked increasing to 92% for those aged 55-64.

Table 7.9 Adults in private households not at work whose disability limited or affected them before 65 years of age by age group[26]

% of row adults

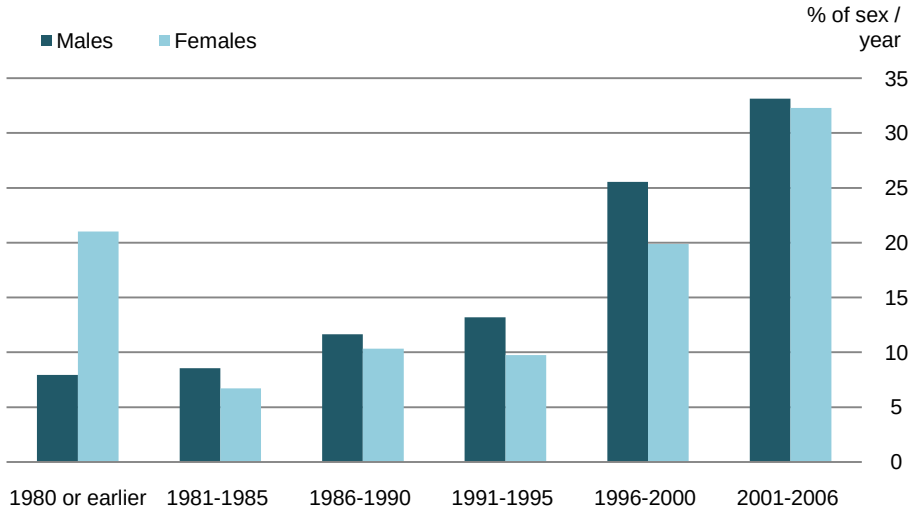
Age group	Worked previously		Adults not at work
	Yes	No	
Adults	**108,700**	**21,500**	**130,200**
Adults %	**83**	**17**	**130,200**
18-34	60	40	17,000
35-44	83	17	20,000
45-54	87	13	27,800
55-64	92	8	38,300
65 & over	83	17	27,100

[26] Respondents who categorised their main activity as one of the following: Unemployed; Retired early; Unable to work due to permanent illness or disability; Looking after family/home; or Other.

7.7 Adults not working or retired early – year of previous job

Graph 7.10 shows the respondents not at work by sex and year of previous job[27]. Around one-in-five females (21%) left their previous job in 1980 or earlier compared with 8% of males. One-third of both males and females left their previous job in 2001-2006.

Graph 7.10 Adults in private households not at work whose disability limited or affected them before 65 years of age by sex and year of previous job[27, 28]

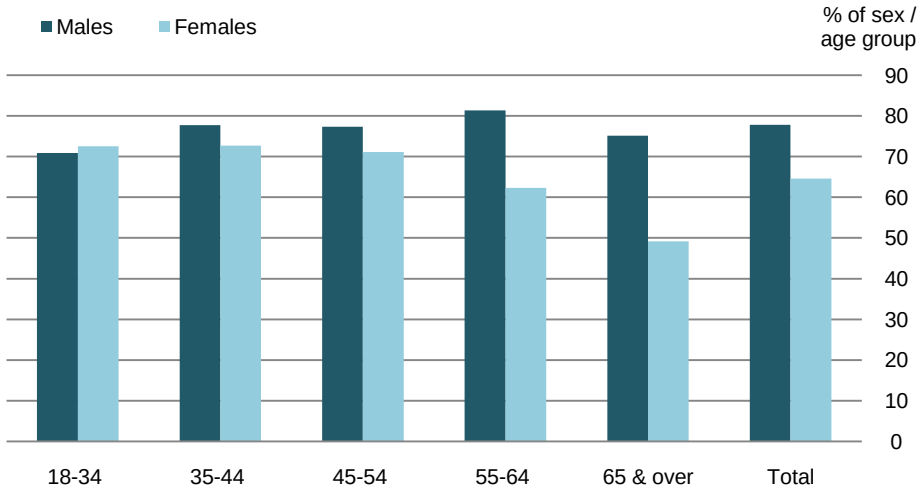


7.8 Adults not working or retired early – reasons related to disability

Respondents who said that their disability limited or affected them before they reached the age of 65 and who categorised their main activity as Unemployed or Retired early or Unable to work due to permanent illness or disability or Looking after family/home or Other, were asked if they left their job because of reasons related to their disability.

Over 70% of these respondents left their previous job because of reasons related to their disability, 78% of male respondents and 65% of female respondents (see Graph 7.11).

Graph 7.11 Adults in private households not at work whose disability limited or affected them before 65 years of age who left their last job due to their disability by age group[28]

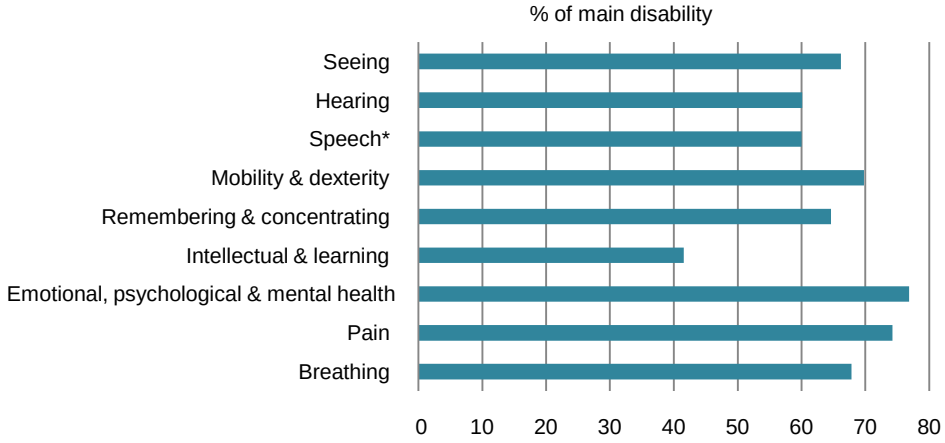


[27] 122 persons in the sample did not answer this question on year of previous job.

[28] Respondents who categorised their main activity as Unemployed or Retired early or Unable to work due to permanent illness or disability or Looking after family/home or Other and who previously worked.

Higher proportions of adults whose main disability was Emotional, Psychological and mental health (77%) and Pain (74%) left their previous job because of reasons related to their disability (see Graph 7.12).

Graph 7.12 Adults in private households not at work whose disability limited or affected them before 65 years of age who left their last job due to their disability by main disability[28]



* Figures are based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

7.9 Adults not working or retired early – main reason

Respondents who said that their disability limited or affected them before they reached the age of 65 and who categorised their main activity as: Unemployed, Retired early, Unable to work due to permanent illness or disability, Looking after family/home, or Other and who left their job because of reasons related to their disability, were asked for the main reason for leaving. Respondents were asked to select one main reason.

Table 7.13 profiles the main reasons for leaving their job by age group. Poor health was by far the most common reason given by adults of all age groups, ranging from 55% of 18-34 year olds to 83% of the 65 and older age group. The next most common reason was that the job was too difficult or they could not cope.

Table 7.13 Adults in private households not at work whose disability limited or affected them before 65 years of age who left their last job due to their disability by age group and main reason[29]

% of row adults

Age group	Main reason						Adults not at work[29]
	Inadequate transport	Job not accommodate disability	Isolation, bullying	Found job difficult	Poor health	Other	
Adults	**100**	**3,600**	**2,300**	**8,900**	**58,300**	**4,100**	**77,300**
Adults %	**0**	**5**	**3**	**12**	**75**	**5**	**77,300**
18-34	1	8	10	18	55	8	7,300
35-44	-	5	5	17	67	7	12,400
45-54	0	4	3	12	77	4	18,000
55-64	0	5	2	8	81	5	25,500
65 & over	-	3	0	9	83	6	14,100

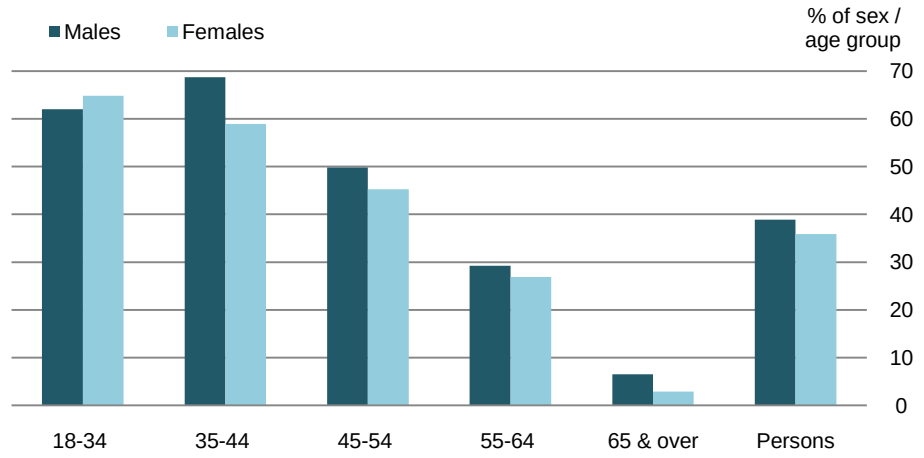
[29] Adults in private households not at work whose disability limited or affected them before 65 years of age who categorised their main activity as: Unemployed or Retired early or Unable to work due to permanent illness or disability or Looking after family/home or Other and who left their previous job due to their disability.

7.10 Adults not working or retired early – interested in starting work

Respondents who said that their disability limited or affected them before they reached the age of 65 and who categorised their main activity as: Unemployed, Retired early, Unable to work due to permanent illness or disability, Looking after family/home, or Other, were asked if the circumstances were right would they be interested in starting employment.

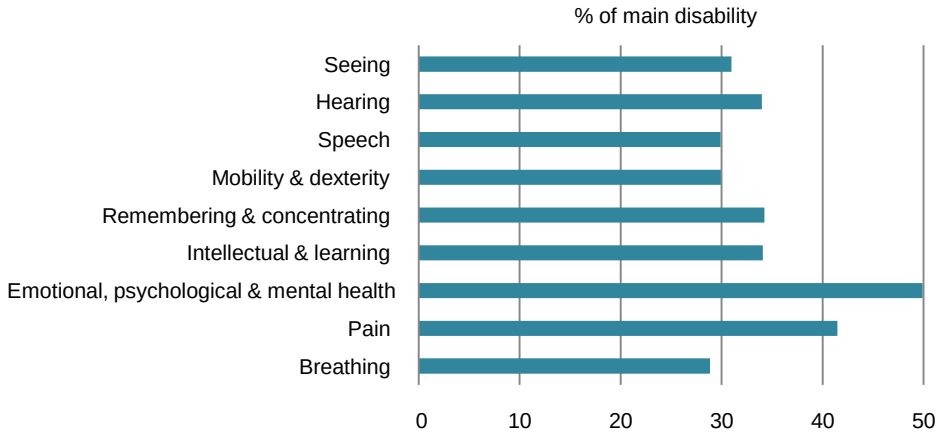
Overall, around 37% of adults in private households not currently working were interested in starting work, with fairly similar proportions for men and women (see Graph 7.14). Higher proportions of adults aged 18-34 and 35-44 said they would be interested in starting work if the circumstances were right compared with older respondents.

Graph 7.14 Adults in private households not currently working interested in starting work by sex and age group[30]



Half of the adults not at work whose main disability was Emotional, psychological and mental health said they would be interested in starting employment if the circumstances were right (see Graph 7.15). The next highest proportion was for those whose main disability was Pain (42%).

Graph 7.15 Adults in private households interested in starting work by main disability[30]



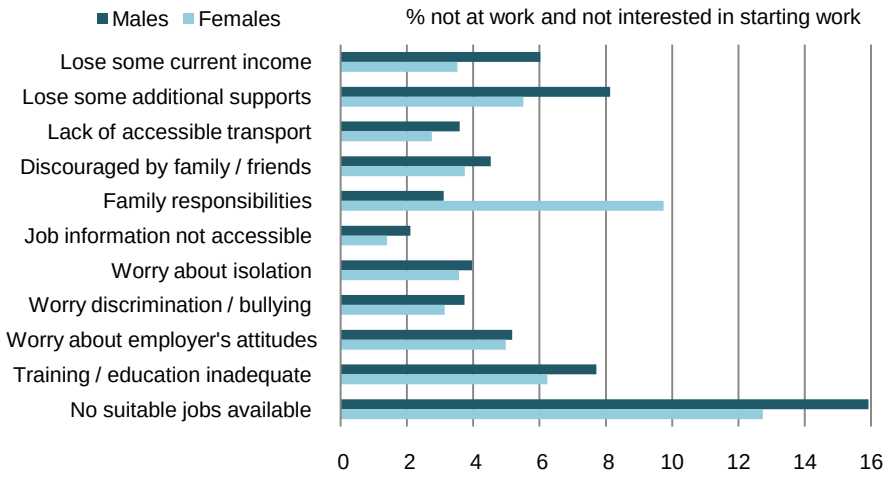
[30] Respondents who categorised their main activity as one of the following: Unemployed; Retired early; Unable to work due to permanent illness or disability; Looking after family/home; or Other.

7.11 Adults discouraged from looking for work - reasons

Adults who categorised their main activity as unemployed, retired early, unable to work due to permanent illness or disability, looking after family/home, or other and said that they were not interested in starting employment were asked if there were reasons that discouraged them from looking for work in the previous 6 months.

Graph 7.16 shows the proportion of males and females not interested in starting employment by reason. By far the most common reason for both males (16%) and females (13%) was that there were No suitable jobs available. The next most common reasons for males were loss of some additional support such as the medical card (8%) and Training/education not adequate (8%). The second most common reason for females was Family responsibilities (10%).

Graph 7.16 Adults in private households not interested in starting work by sex and reason[31]



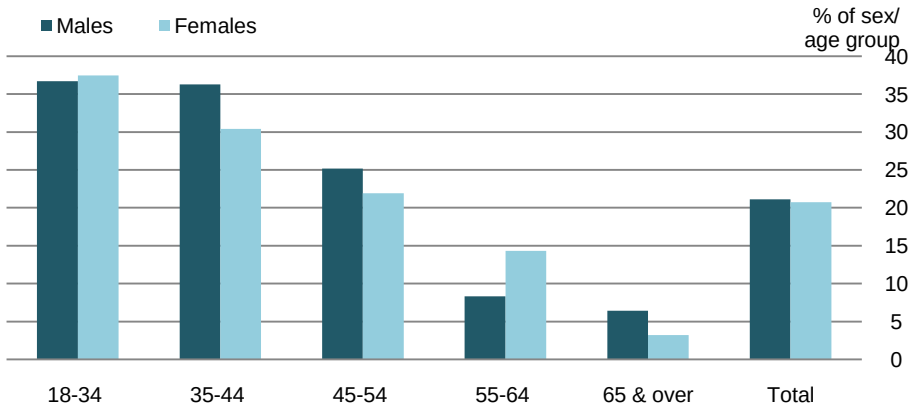
7.12 Work-related training

Adults who said that their disability limited or affected them before they reached the age of 65 were asked, since they began to have difficulty with their disability, had they taken any work-related training courses to either improve their skills or to learn new skills. Respondents who said they were students or who had retired at the normal age were not asked this question.

Overall, around one-in-five of this group had taken work-related training courses to either improve their skills or to learn new skills (see Graph 7.17). This proportion decreased with age, ranging from 37% for respondents aged 18-34 to 5% of those aged 65 & over.

[31] Adults in private households not at work whose disability limited or affected them before 65 years of age and who categorised their main activity as one of the following: Unemployed; Retired early; Unable to work due to permanent illness or disability; Looking after family/home; or Other, and said that they were not interested in starting employment. Multiple answers allowed.

Graph 7.17 Adults in private households who had taken work-related training by sex and age group[32]



Dublin (23%) and the Mid-East (24%) were the regions which had the highest proportions of adults who had taken work-related training courses (see Graph 7.18).

Graph 7.18 Adults in private households who had taken work-related training by region[32]

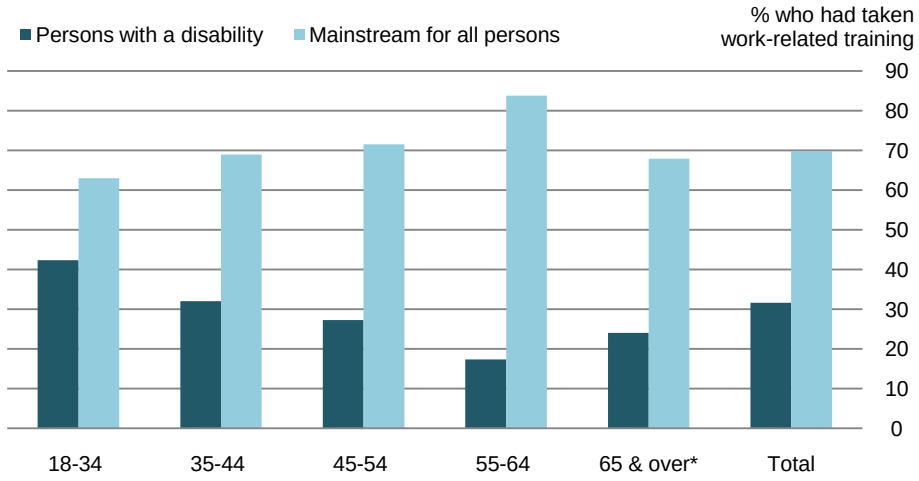
7.13 Work-related training – type of training group

Adults who said that they had taken work-related training courses to either improve their skills or to learn new skills were asked if the training was mainly for people with a disability or mainstream for all persons.

Most persons in all age groups had taken mainstream work-related training courses, ranging from 63% of respondents aged 18-34 to 84% of those aged 55-64 (see Graph 7.19). The younger age groups had the highest proportions who had taken work-related training courses mainly for people with a disability.

[32] Adults at work or not at work or Looking for first regular job who said that their disability limited or affected them before they reached the age of 65.

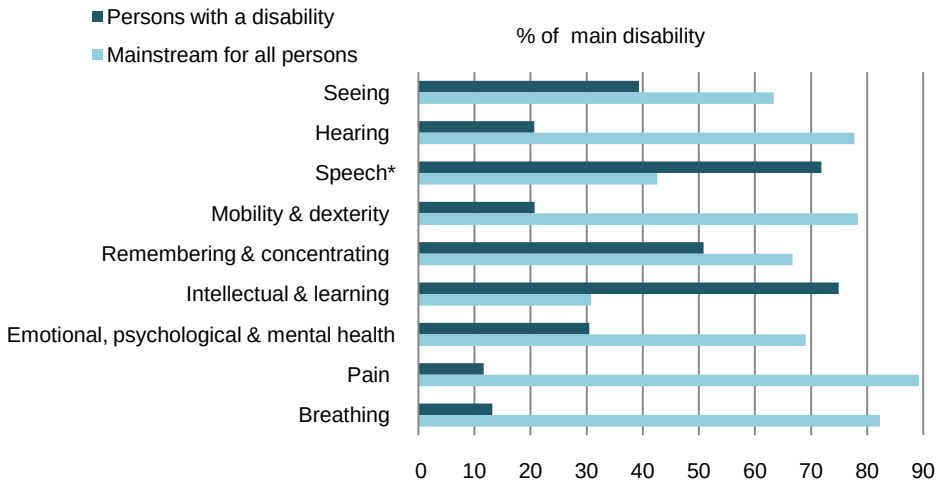
Graph .19 Adults in private households who had taken work-related training by type of training and age group[33]



* Figures are based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

Around three-quarters of adults with Intellectual and learning (75%) and Speech (72%) as their main disability had the highest proportions who had taken work-related training courses mainly for people with a disability (see Graph 7.20). Around 90% of adults with Pain as their main disability had taken mainstream work-related training courses.

Graph 7.20 Adults in private households who had taken work-related training by type of training and main disability[33]



* Figures are based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

7.14 Work-related training – type of training programme

Adults who said that they had taken work-related training courses to either improve their skills or to learn new skills were asked the type of programme - Specific job skills training; General training; and Employment Scheme (e.g. Community Employment).

[33] Adults at work or not at work or Looking for first regular job who said that their disability limited or affected them before they reached the age of 65 and who had taken work-related training since they began to have difficulty with their disability. Respondents could tick 'yes' to both categories.

Specific job skills training (56%) and was the most popular work-related training courses taken by adults (see Table 7.21). Around 60% of respondents in the age groups 18-34 and 35-44 had taken Specific job skills training to either improve their skills or to learn new skills. General work-related training courses were taken by 43% of respondents followed by 25% for Employment scheme courses.

Table 7.21 Adults in private households at work or not at work who have taken work-related training by type of course and age group[33]

			% of row	adults
Age group	**Specific job skills**	**General training**	**Employment scheme**	**Adults who did work related training**
Adults	**19,000**	**14,400**	**8,300**	**33,600**
Adults %	**56**	**43**	**25**	**33,600**
18-34	61	47	23	10,200
35-44	60	41	22	9,200
45-54	51	40	27	8,100
55-64	49	45	30	4,800
65 & over[34]	[56]	[34]	[19]	1,300

7.15 Aids / features required to be able to work

Adults who said that their disability limited or affected them before they reached the age of 65 and who were either at work or looking for work or student/pupil or were willing to work were asked because of their disability would they require any of the listed aids or features to be able to work. Respondents who said they had retired at the normal age were not asked this question. Thirteen features were listed and respondents were asked to answer 'yes' or 'no' to each.

Flexible work arrangements (45%) were by far the most common aid/feature required by respondents in order to be able to work (see Table 7.22). The next most common aids/features were Modified job tasks (29%) and Wage subsidy (24%). These were also the top three aids/features across all age groups. Around 13% of respondents aged 18-34 cited Human supports such as a reader, sign language interpreter, job coach or personal assistant as a need. This was double the rate of the other age groups.

[34] Figures in parentheses [ ] are based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

Table 7.22 Adults in private households at work or willing to work by aid/features required to work and age group[35]

					% of column	adults
Aids/feature	**18-34**	**35-44**	**45-54**	**55-64**	**Total**	**Adults**
Adults	**24,400**	**20,800**	**20,000**	**15,700**	**82,900**	**82,900**
Accessible transport	15	16	19	20	**17**	14,300
Accessible building	9	13	14	15	**13**	10,600
Accessible lift	9	14	16	17	**14**	11,400
Accessible toilet	10	11	12	14	**12**	9,900
Appropriate parking	9	16	15	19	**14**	11,900
Handrails / ramps	7	10	10	13	**10**	8,000
Human support	13	6	7	2	**8**	6,200
Technical aids	5	3	3	3	**4**	3,000
Communication aids	5	4	5	3	**4**	3,500
Modified workstation	12	15	12	11	**13**	10,700
Modified job tasks	30	28	29	29	**29**	24,000
Flexible work arrangements	41	45	49	46	**45**	37,200
Wage subsidy	21	26	27	24	**24**	19,800

The aids/features identified by adults in order to be able to work were slightly more varied across main disability type (see Table 7.23). Flexible working arrangements were cited by the highest proportion of adults across all main disabilities with the exception of adults with Intellectual & learning as their main disability who had Modified jobs tasks as the most required. Around one-third of adults whose main disability was Mobility & dexterity cited Appropriate parking, Accessible transport, buildings, lifts and toilets as features that were needed in order to be able to work. Human support was cited by 26% of adults with Intellectual & learning as their main disability.

[35] Adults in private households whose disability limited or affected them before 65 years of age and who are At work or Looking for first regular job or who are Students/pupils or anyone who would be interested in starting employment should the circumstances be right. Multiple answers allowed.

Table 7.23 Adults in private households at work or willing to work by aid/features required to work main disability[35]

% of column adults

Aids/features	Main disability (see key-code under table)									Total	Adults
	A	B	C[36]	D	E	F	G	H	I		
Adults	**3,100**	**4,600**	**800**	**17,000**	**3,400**	**8,600**	**18,200**	**21,300**	**5,800**	**82,900**	**82,900**
Accessible transport	31	9	[21]	30	13	18	10	14	13	**17**	14,300
Accessible building	17	3	[9]	31	4	4	2	15	7	**13**	10,600
Accessible lift	16	7	[4]	31	2	2	3	18	13	**14**	11,400
Accessible toilet	13	5	[13]	27	2	4	3	14	7	**12**	9,900
Appropriate parking	13	3	[6]	33	6	2	5	17	13	**14**	11,900
Handrails / ramps	13	5	[4]	25	1	3	2	11	4	**10**	8,000
Human support	16	13	[18]	4	8	26	6	2	3	**7**	6,200
Technical aids	20	9	[12]	3	11	4	1	2	1	**4**	3,000
Communication aids	39	6	[8]	4	4	3	2	2	3	**4**	3,500
Modified workstation	24	4	[24]	23	8	9	4	16	4	**13**	10,700
Modified job tasks	30	13	[38]	34	23	37	21	34	22	**29**	24,000
Flexible work arrangements	39	20	[47]	49	40	35	49	49	45	**45**	37,200
Wage subsidy	25	13	[35]	24	19	24	25	25	26	**24**	19,800

Key-code:

A = Seeing; **B** = Hearing; **C** = Speech; **D** = Mobility & dexterity; **E** = Remembering & concentrating; **F** = Intellectual & learning; **G** = Emotional, psychological & mental health; **H** = Pain; **I** = Breathing.

[36] Figures in parentheses [ ] are based on small numbers, and are, therefore, subject to a wide margin of error.

Chapter 8 Social Participation

Section eight of the NDS asked people with a disability about their social participation: the types of social activity and holiday arrangements they engaged in; the people they interacted with on a social level; whether they had difficulty in any areas of social participation; whether they had taken a holiday away from home; and their attitude to trusting people.

8.1 Participation in social activities

All persons with a disability were asked if they had done any of the following social activities over the previous four weeks: Gone out with family/friends to a social venue e.g. cinema, pub, football match; Visited family/friends in their homes; Had family/friends visit them; Phoned, texted, wrote to or e-mailed family/friends; or Used the internet to get information. In addition, children (aged 0-17) were asked had they spent time with friends for recreation or play in the previous four weeks prior to the Survey.

Around 82% of children reported that they had engaged in Spending time with friends for recreation/play (see Graph 8.1). Having friends or family to their home for a social visit was engaged in by 81% of persons with a disability in the four weeks prior to the Survey.

People with a disability in private households were much more likely than people living in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes to have: Gone out to a social venue with family or friends (61% versus 22%); Visited family or friends (72% versus 19%); Phoned, texted, written to or e-mailed family or friends (80% versus 24%); or Used the internet (25% versus 1%) (see Graph 8.1).

Graph 8.1 People with a disability by social activity in the previous four weeks and accommodation type[37]

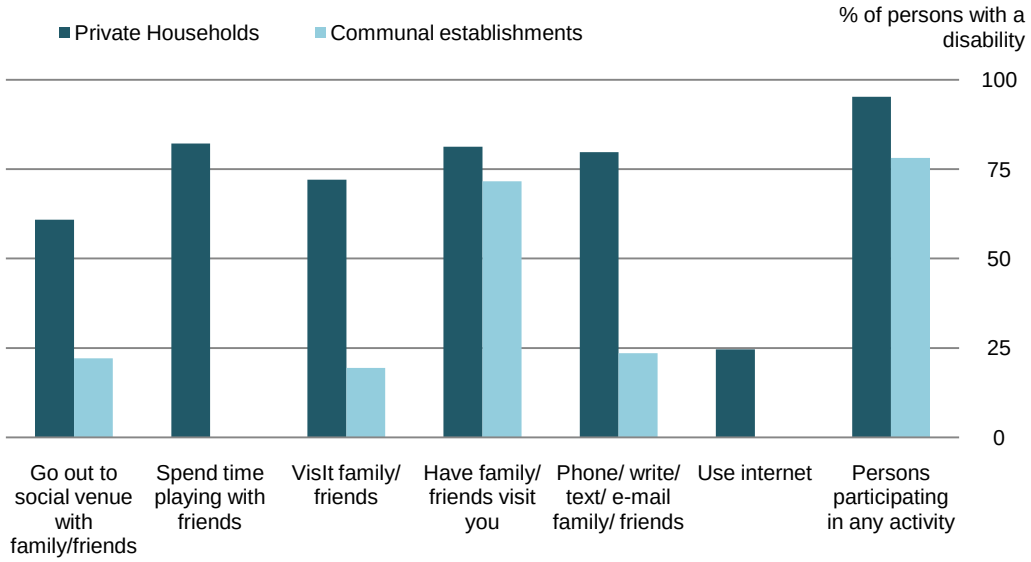


Table 8.2 shows that those in the younger age groups were generally more likely to have participated in social activities than those in the older age groups. The exception to this trend was Hosting family and friends at home, with 81% of persons in the 75 years & over age group reporting that they had entertained family or friends for a visit at their private home or communal establishment in the four

[37] 'Spend time playing with friends' was only asked of children (aged 0-17) and the percentages quoted are therefore calculated off a base of 35,862. 'Spending time playing with friends' and 'Use internet' have been omitted for Communal establishments due to small sample sizes.

weeks prior to the Survey. There was relatively little difference between males and females in the participation of social activities by age (see Detailed tables, Table 8.1).

Table 8.2 People with a disability by social activity in the previous four weeks and age group

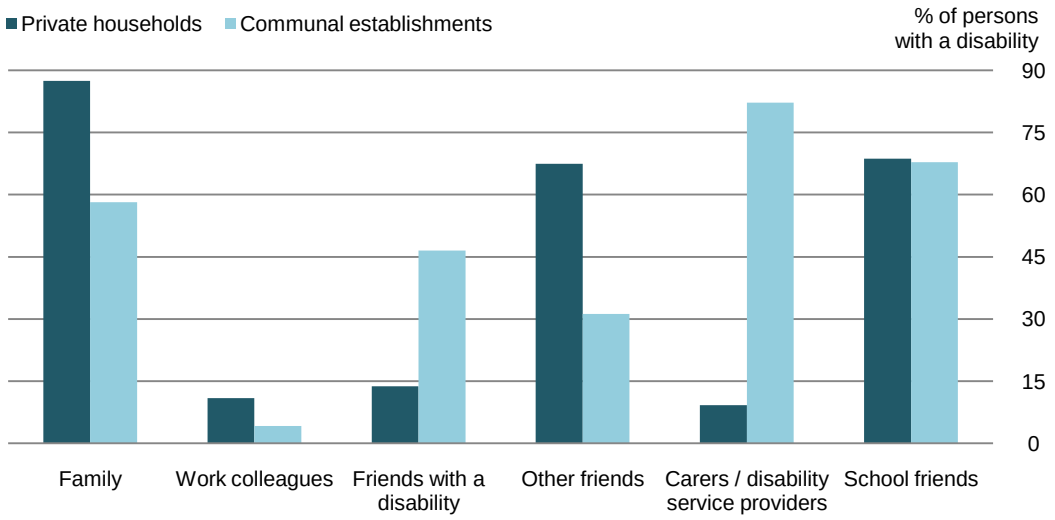
						% of row	persons	%
Age group	**Go out to social venue with family / friends**	**Spend time playing with family / friends[37]**	**Visit family / friends / relatives**	**Host family / friends at home**	**Phone / write / text / e-mail family / friends**	**Use internet**	**Persons with a disability**	**Percent participating in any social activity**
Persons	**188,300**	**29,500**	**221,400**	**262,500**	**245,400**	**74,100**	**325,800**	
Persons %	**58**	**82**	**68**	**81**	**75**	**23**	**325,800**	**94**
0-17	86	82	87	87	59	39	35,900	97
18-34	75	-	80	82	85	49	41,400	97
35-44	63	-	76	76	84	37	35,400	95
45-54	60	-	70	75	84	27	43,200	95
55-64	59	-	72	81	83	18	52,600	95
65-74	53	-	64	83	79	9	44,900	95
75 & over	32	-	46	81	60	3	72,600	89

8.2 Social activities

Respondents were asked whether their main social activities were with any of the following groups: Family; Work colleagues/School friends; Friends who have a disability; Other Friends; or Carers or people who provide a disability service.[38]

As illustrated in Graph 8.3, while Family (87%) and Other friends (67%) provided the main social company for people living in private households, people in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes depended relatively more on Carers/disability service providers (82%) and Friends with a disability (47%) for social interaction.

Graph 8.3 People with a disability by main social activity group and accommodation type[38,39]



[38] Respondents were permitted to indicate more than one group.
[39] The 'School friends' category was only asked to children (aged 0-17) while the 'Work colleagues' category was only asked to adults. The respective bases are 35,862 (children) and 289,976 (adults). The School friends category for communal establishments are based on small numbers and are therefore subject to a wide margin of error.

Table 8.4 indicates that persons of all ages in private households reported that their main social activities took place with Family members (87%) and Other friends (67%). For over two-thirds (69%) of children in private households their main social activity was with School friends.

Overall, 97% of persons in private households reported that their main social activities were with people in one of the six specified groups. Friends with a disability were the main social activity group for 23% of 18-34 year olds with a disability to 7% of those aged 75 & over.

Table 8.4 People with a disability in private households by main social activity group and age group

						% of row	persons	%
Age group	**Family**	**School friends[40]**	**Work colleagues[40]**	**Friends with a disability**	**Other friends**	**Carers / disability service providers**	**Persons with a disability**	**Percent whose main social activities with any group**
Persons	**262,500**	**24,500**	**28,800**	**41,200**	**202,300**	**27,700**	**300,200**	**291,600**
Persons %	**87**	**69**	**11**	**14**	**67**	**9**	**300,200**	**97**
0-17	93	69	-	22	65	10	35,600	99
18-34	84	-	22	23	73	12	40,200	98
35-44	86	-	19	15	70	8	33,900	97
45-54	85	-	12	13	69	7	41,400	96
55-64	87	-	9	10	71	6	50,600	97
65-74	89	-	6	10	68	7	41,700	97
75 & over	88	-	2	7	58	13	56,700	96

Table 8.5 indicates that, for those living in private households, there was wide variation between main disability types in the social groups that they interact with. Children (aged 0-17) whose main disability was Emotional, psychological & mental health reported that they were much less likely to undertake their main social activities with school friends (44% compared with an overall average of 69%).

For those whose main disability was Speech, the proportion who reported that their main social activities were with Carers/disability service providers was more than double the overall average (21% versus 9%).

Table 8.5 People in private households with a disability by main social activity group and main disability

						% of row	persons
Main disability	**Family**	**School friends[40]**	**Work colleagues[40]**	**Friends with a disability**	**Other friends**	**Carers / disability service providers**	**Persons with a disability**
Persons	**262,500**	**24,500**	**28,800**	**41,200**	**202,300**	**27,700**	**300,200**
Persons %	**87**	**69**	**11**	**14**	**67**	**9**	
Seeing	87	80	11	12	72	11	14,100
Hearing	89	77	19	11	78	5	21,200
Speech	88	60	18	32	54	21	5,200
Mobility & dexterity	90	57	8	10	66	10	80,100
Remembering & concentrating	87	74	9	12	65	10	14,900
Intellectual & learning	89	71	23	30	63	17	36,100
Emotional, psychological & mental health	79	44	10	17	61	11	41,000
Pain	89	80	9	9	72	4	61,400
Breathing	89	79	12	9	69	4	26,200

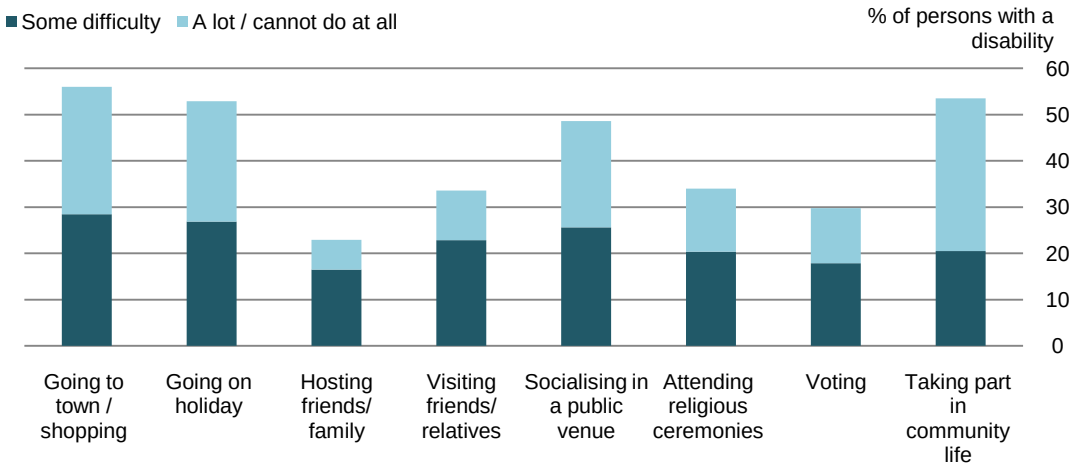
[40] The 'School friends' category was only asked to children (aged 0-17) while the 'Work colleagues' category was only asked to adults. The respective bases are 35,900 (children) and 290,000 (adults).

8.3 Difficulties experienced in social participation

People with a disability were asked about the difficulties they experienced participating in eight specific types of social activity. In each case, respondents were asked to indicate whether they had: No difficulty; Some difficulty; or A lot/cannot do.

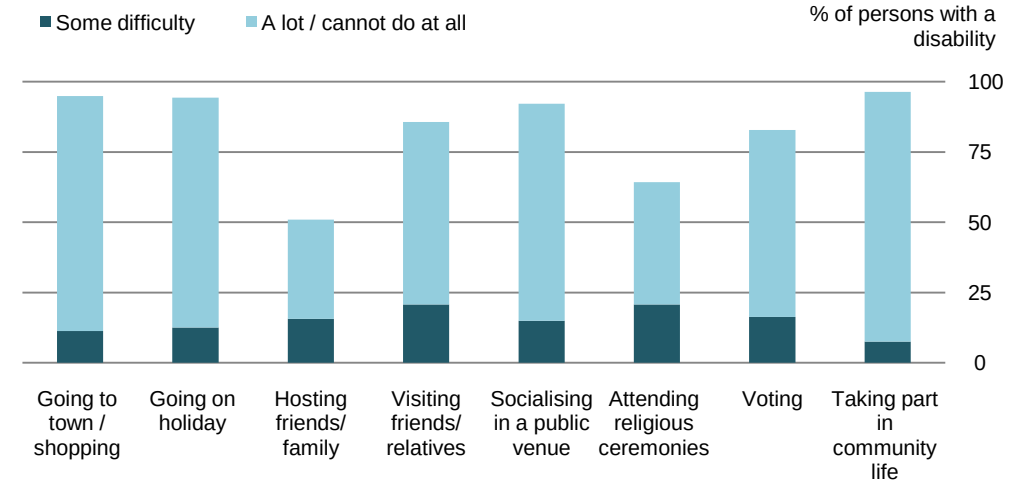
Graph 8.6 shows that around half of persons with a disability in private households experienced difficulty with Going to town shopping (56%), Going away for a break or holiday (53%), Taking part in community life (54%) and Socialising in a public venue (49%). Around one-third had difficulty Visiting friends (34%) and Attending religious ceremonies (34%). Thirty percent of adults had some level of difficulty Voting, while 23% of people in private households experienced difficulty Having friends or family in for a social visit.

Graph 8.6 People with a disability in private households who experienced difficulty with social activities by activity type and difficulty level



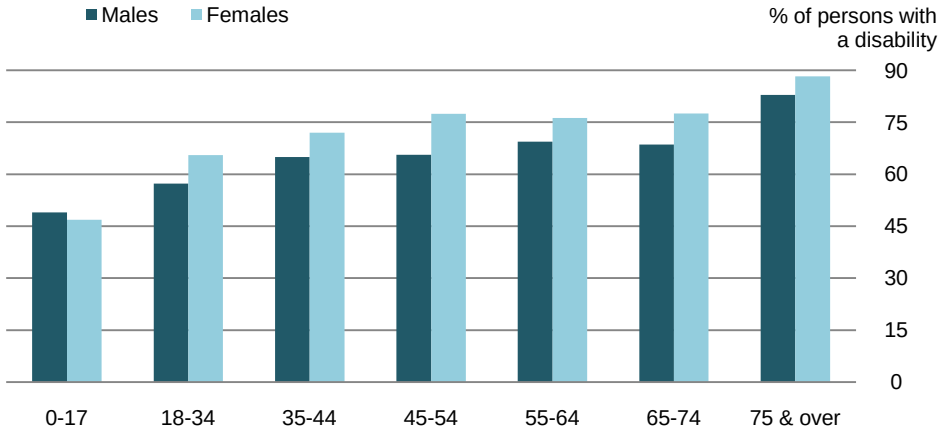
A much higher proportion of persons in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes experienced difficulty participating in social activities (see Graph 8.7). Around 96% of persons living in these communal establishments said that they experienced at least some difficulty Taking part in community life, Going to town shopping (95%), Going away for a break or holiday (94%) and Socialising in a public venue (92%). However, just over half (51%) of people in communal establishments reported any difficulty having friends or family in for a social visit. In addition to higher proportions reporting any difficulty, a greater percentage of persons in communal establishments indicated the higher level of difficulty 'A lot/cannot do at all' (see Graphs 8.6 and 8.7).

Graph 8.7 People in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes who experienced difficulty with social activities by activity type and difficulty level



When analysed by age group, there was a clear pattern where older people were more likely to report difficulty participating in social activities. Graph 8.8 shows that 86% of persons aged 75 & over in private households reported at least some difficulty participating in any of the eight different social activity types, compared with 48% for those in the 0-17 age group.

Graph 8.8 People with a disability in private households who experienced difficulty with social activities by sex and age group



When analysed by main disability type, a high proportion of persons in private households who had Mobility & dexterity as their main disability reported difficulty with social activities, particularly those requiring them to go out and about: Going to town shopping (77%), Going away for a break or holiday (70%) and Taking part in community life (69%) (see Table 8.9 and Detailed Tables, Table 8.7a).

Table 8.9 People in private households who experienced difficulty with social activities by main disability and activity

								% of row	persons
Main disability	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G***	**H**	**Persons with a disability**
Persons	**168,100**	**158,800**	**68,800**	**100,800**	**145,800**	**101,900**	**78,800**	**160,700**	**300,200**
Persons %	**56**	**53**	**23**	**34**	**49**	**34**	**30**	**54**	
Seeing	59	56	21	31	52	31	40	54	14,100
Hearing	28	28	12	19	45	25	14	38	21,200
Speech	54	49	27	31	41	35	45	53	5,200
Mobility & dexterity	77	70	27	47	63	48	40	69	80,100
Remembering & concentrating	43	43	24	27	39	27	28	41	14,900
Intellectual & learning	40	35	18	20	31	24	41	41	36,100
Emotional, psychological & mental health	46	53	33	38	51	35	26	52	41,000
Pain	62	55	20	32	46	32	23	54	61,400
Breathing	46	45	15	24	38	22	20	44	26,200

*This category was only asked of adults. The figures in this column are therefore calculated using a base of 264,600 adults in private households

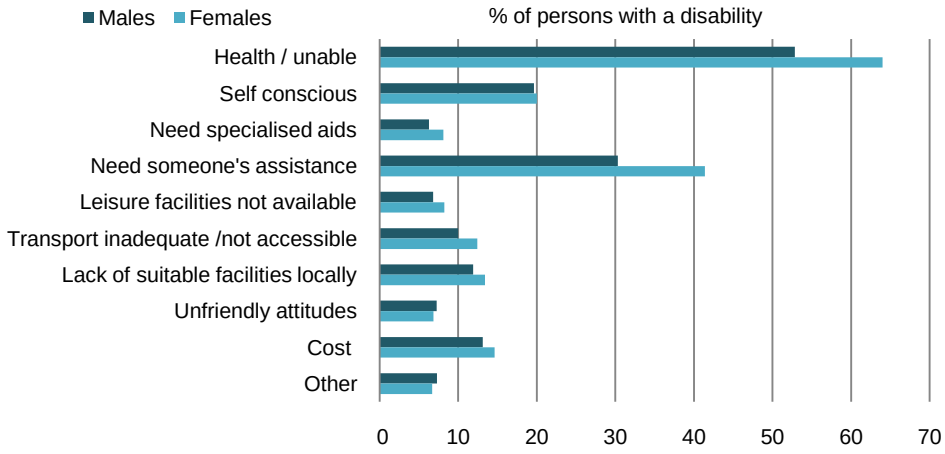
Key-code:

A = Going to town / shopping; **B** = Going on holiday; **C** = Hosting friends; **D** = Visiting friends; **E** = Socialising in a public venue; **F** = Attending religious ceremonies; **G** = Voting; **H** = Taking part in community life.

8.4 Reasons for difficulty

People in private households who indicated that they had difficulty participating in social activities were asked a follow-on question about what made it difficult for them to participate. Respondents were asked whether or not any of ten reasons led to their difficulty participating in social activities.

Graph 8.10 People with a disability in private households by sex and reason for difficulty in social participation



Just under 60% of persons in private households cited Health considerations/physically unable as a reason for difficulty in social participation, which was by far the most common reason given (see Graph 8.10). The next most common reasons were Need for someone's assistance (36%) and being Self-conscious of their disability (20%). As illustrated in Graph 8.10, there was little difference between males and females in their reasons for experiencing difficulty engaging in social activities, with the exceptions of Health considerations and Need someone's assistance where a relatively higher proportion of females cited these as reasons. However, there may have been an underlying age dimension to this: On average, female respondents were six years older than males in private households (see Table 1.3, Chapter1). And, as shown in Table 8.11, Health considerations/physically unable and Need someone's assistance were more likely to be cited as reasons for having difficulty participating in social activities by people in the older age groups.

Persons with Mobility & dexterity (80%), Pain (67%) and Seeing (59%) as their main disability were more likely to report difficulty participating in social activities due to Health reasons (see Detailed tables, Table 8.9).

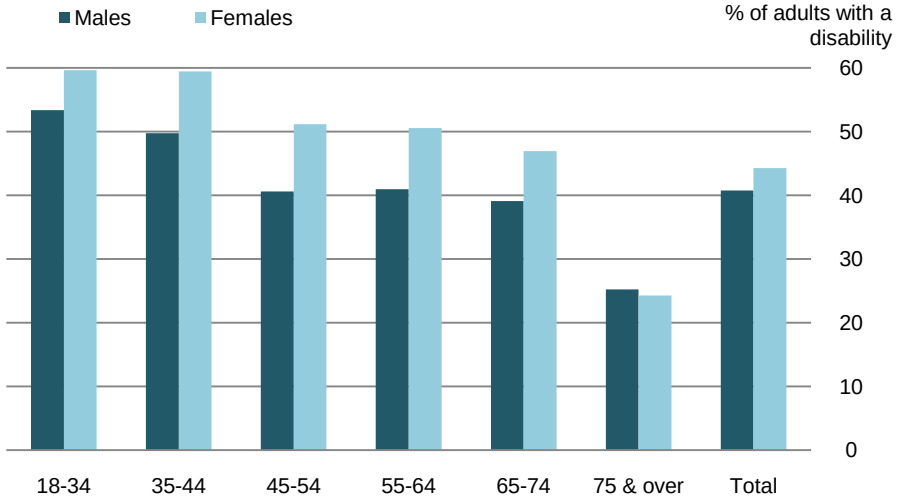
Table 8.11 People in private households who experienced difficulty participating in social activities by reason and age group

								% of column	persons
Reason	**0-17**	**18-34**	**35-44**	**45-54**	**55-64**	**65-74**	**75 & over**	**Percent with difficulty**	**Persons with a disability**
Persons	**35,600**	**40,200**	**33,900**	**41,400**	**50,600**	**41,700**	**56,700**	**300,200**	**300,200**
Percent with difficulty	**48**	**61**	**69**	**72**	**73**	**73**	**86**	**70**	
Health / unable	26	43	55	61	64	66	80	**59**	**175,700**
Self conscious	13	25	30	27	21	14	12	**20**	**59,500**
Need specialised aids	4	5	6	6	6	9	12	**7**	**21,700**
Need someone's assistance	31	28	28	30	29	38	59	**36**	**108,000**
Leisure facilities not available	6	7	8	7	8	8	9	**8**	**22,600**
Transport services inadequate/ not accessible	6	8	10	10	12	14	15	**11**	**33,700**
Lack of suitable facilities locally	15	12	14	14	12	11	12	**13**	**38,000**
Unfriendly attitudes	12	12	13	8	4	3	2	**7**	**21,200**
Cost	9	12	19	17	17	14	11	**14**	**41,700**
Other	9	8	8	7	6	5	7	**7**	**21,000**

8.5 Holidays away

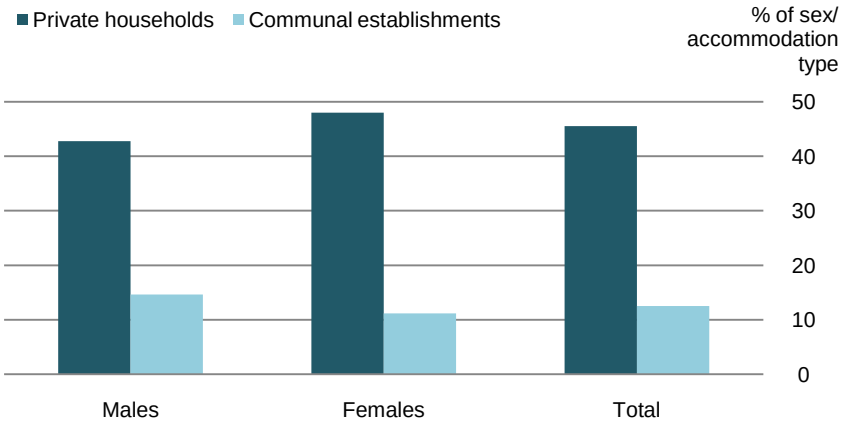
All adults with a disability were asked if they had taken a holiday away from home or their nursing homes, hospitals or children's homes in the 12 months prior to the Survey. Graph 8.12 indicates that people in the older age groups were least likely to have taken a holiday away in the previous year. One-quarter (25%) of those in the 75 & over age group had taken a break in the previous year, compared with 56% of persons aged 18-34. As illustrated in Graph 8.12, females (44%) were more likely to have had a holiday away than males (41%).

Graph 8.12 Adults who took a holiday away in the previous 12 months by sex and age group



A much higher proportion of adults living in private households (46%) indicated that they had taken a holiday in the previous 12 months compared with those in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes (13%) (see Graph 8.13).

Graph 8.13 Adults who took a holiday away in the previous 12 months by accommodation type

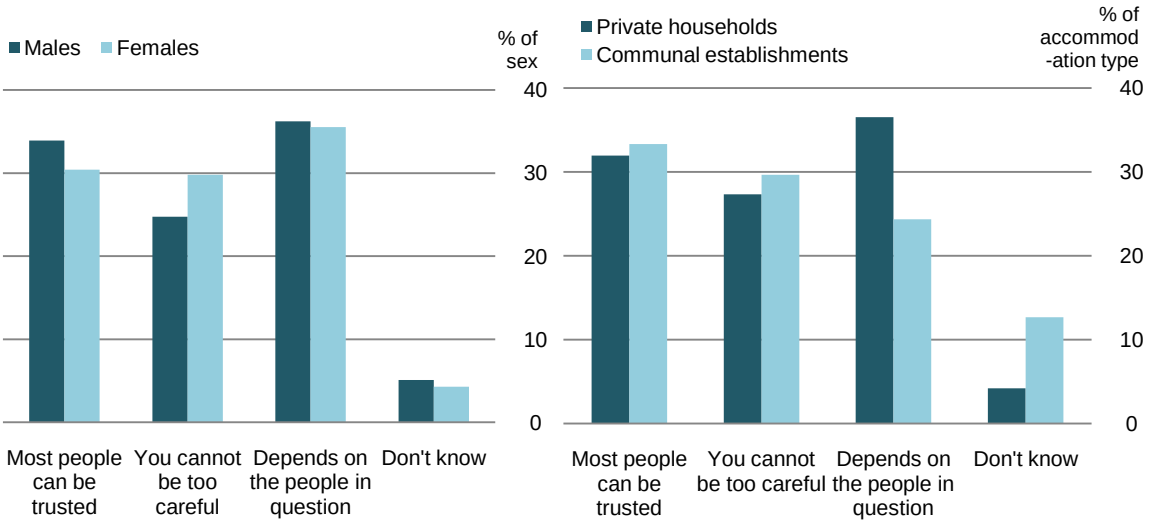


8.6 Trust

Adults with a disability (excluding those interviewed by proxy) were asked the following question: Generally speaking, would you say that: Most people can be trusted; You cannot be too careful; Depends on the people in question; Don't know.

One third of people (32%) said that 'Most people can be trusted' (see Graph 8.14). This figure was similar in private households and communal establishments. A slightly greater proportion (36%) indicated that their trust 'Depended on the people in question', while 28% said 'You cannot be too careful'. People in private households were more likley to say that their trust in others depended on the people in question.

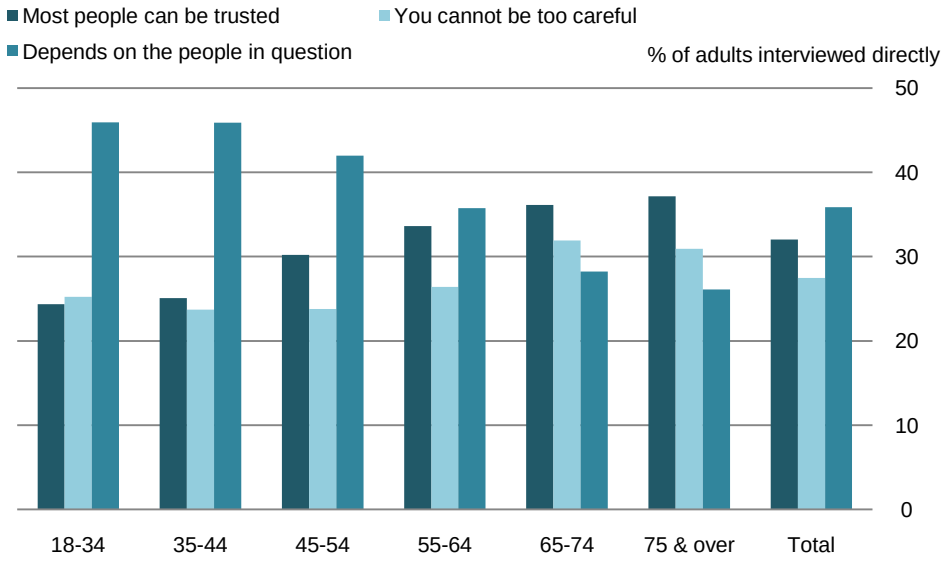
Graph 8.14 Adults[41] attitudes to trusting others by sex and accommodation type



[41] Adults interviewed directly.

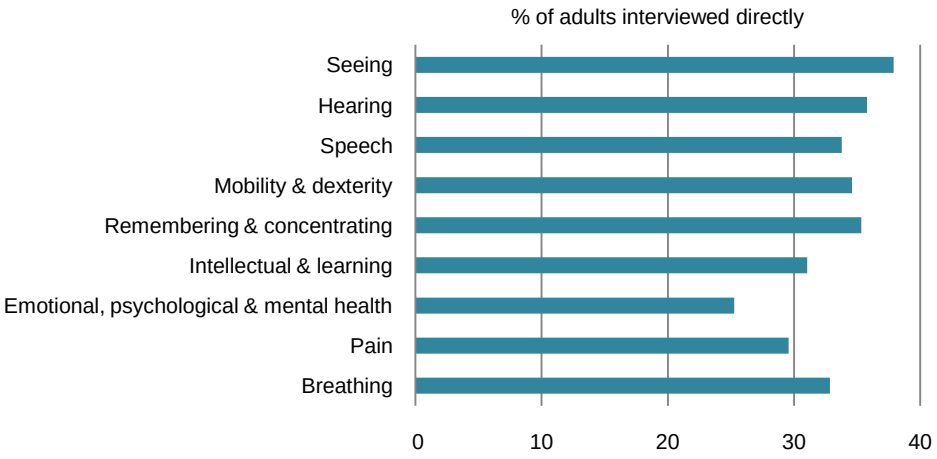
The proportion who indicated that Most people can be trusted increased with age, rising from 24% of those aged 18-34 to 37% of those aged 75 & over (see Graph 8.15). Conversely, the opposite trend was evident in the proportions saying that it Depended on the people in question, falling from 46% of 18-34 year olds to 26% of those aged 75 & over.

Graph 8.15 Adults attitudes to trusting others by age group



The proportion of people who responded that they felt most people could be trusted is illustrated in Graph 8.16, classified by main disability. Around 25% of those whose main disability was Emotional, psychological or mental health said most people can be trusted compared with an overall average of 32%.

Graph 8.16 Adults who believed most people could be trusted by main disability



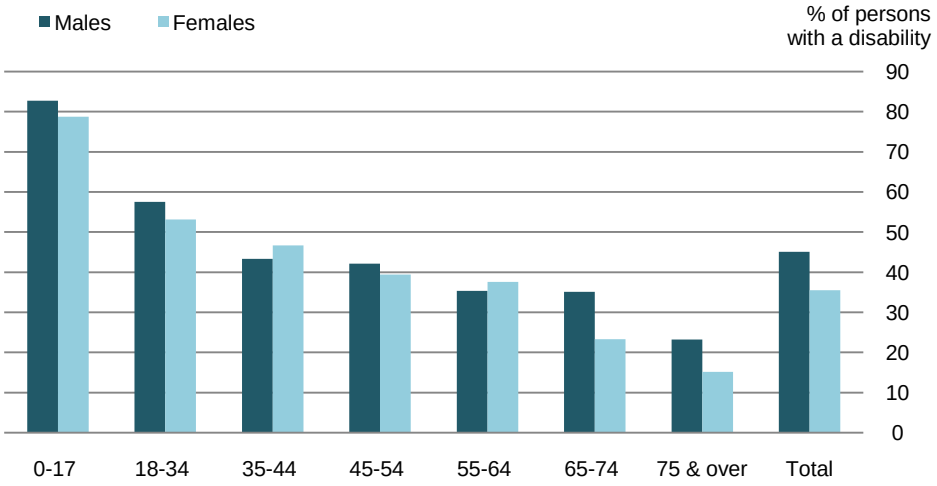
Chapter 9 Sport and Exercise

This chapter provides an analysis of the levels of sports participation and physical exercise undertaken by people with a disability. The questionnaire collected information on a variety of issues around sports participation and exercise: Participation in sport and physical exercise in the four weeks prior to the Survey; Frequency of participation; Time spent per session; Intensity of participation; and Membership of any sports groups or sports associations for people with disabilities. Adults and children in private households were asked all five questions. People in communal establishments were only asked the first two questions on participation and frequency of participation. People who did not participate in sports or exercise in the four weeks prior to the Survey were only asked about membership of any sports groups or sports associations for people with disabilities.

9.1 Participation in sports or physical exercise

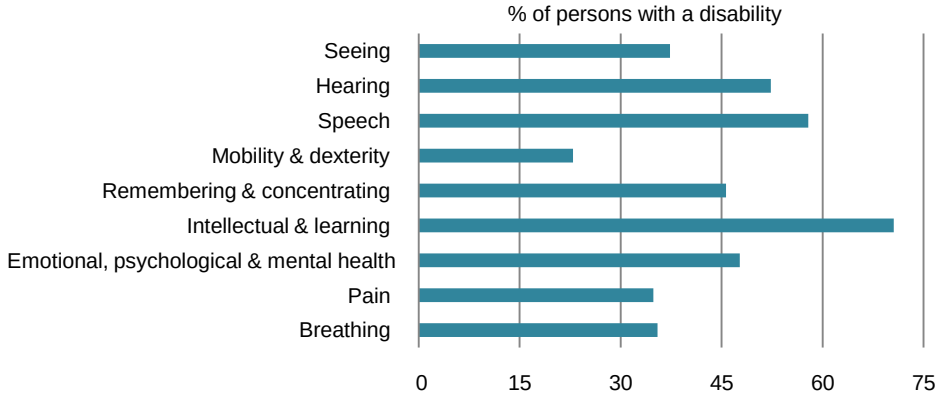
Adults and children with a disability in private households and communal establishments were asked if they had taken part in sports or physical exercise, such as walking for fitness or swimming, in the four weeks prior to the Survey. Graph 9.1 shows the proportion who participate in sports or exercise by sex and age group. Overall, 45% of males with a disability participated in sports or physical exercise in the previous four weeks compared with 36% of females with a disability. The negative relationship between age and participation was similar for both males and females, with participation decreasing with age. For example, 83% of males with a disability aged 0-17 participated in sports over the four weeks prior to the Survey decreasing to 23% of males aged 75 & over.

Graph 9.1 People with a disability who took part in sport or physical exercise in last four weeks by sex and age group



People whose main disability was Mobility & dexterity were least likely to take part in sport or exercise. As shown in Graph 9.2, less than one quarter (23%) of persons in this category reported that they had participated in sports or exercise in the four weeks prior to the Survey. In contrast, 71% of those whose main disability was Intellectual & learning indicated that they had participated in sports or physical exercise in the same period. The age profiles of these two groups may be a contributing factor to this difference. The average age of people whose main disability was Intellectual & learning was 24 years compared with 64 years for people whose main disability was Mobility & dexterity.

Graph 9.2 Participation in sport or physical exercise in last four weeks by main disability type

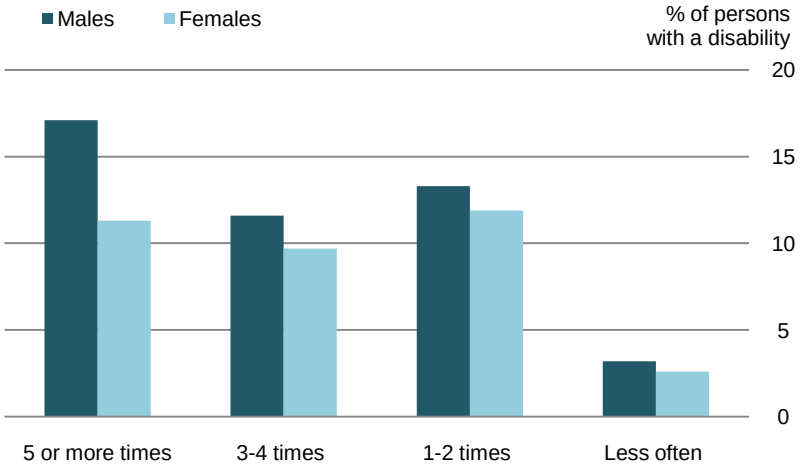


9.2 Frequency of participation

Those who indicated that they had participated in sport or physical exercise in the four weeks prior to the Survey were further questioned about the level of their activities. Firstly, they were asked about their weekly participation over the previous four weeks.

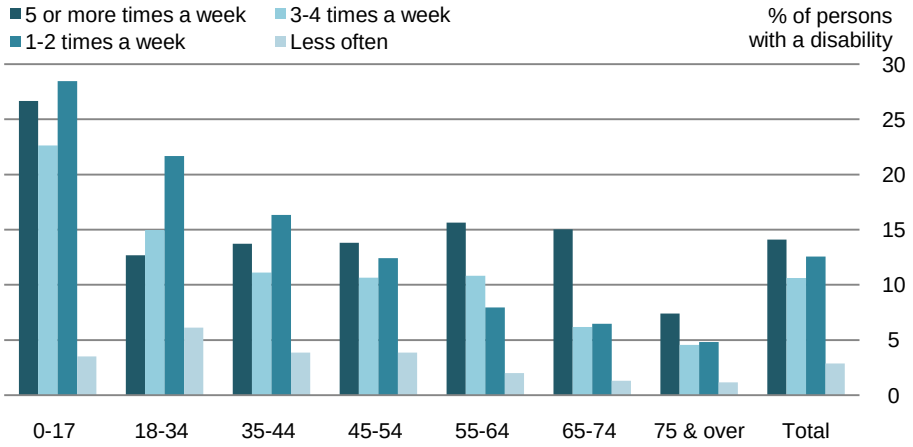
A higher proportion of males with a disability participated in sports or physical exercise over the previous four weeks compared with their female counterparts. This difference was more apparent for the frequency of 5 or more times per week: just over 17% of males with a disability exercised 5 or more times per week compared with 11% of females (see Graph 9.3). The next most popular weekly frequency for sport/exercise participation was 1-2 times per week, with 13% of males and 12% of females with a disability responding that they exercised 1-2 times per week.

Graph 9.3 Frequency of participation in sport or physical exercise for people with a disability in last four weeks by sex



Graph 9.4 shows that while a greater proportion of the younger age groups with a disability participated in sports/exercise compared with their older counterparts, the most popular weekly participation for the age groups up to 44 years was 1-2 times per week, while that for the age groups from 45 years was 5 or more times per week.

Graph 9.4 Frequency of participation in sport or physical exercise in last four weeks by age group

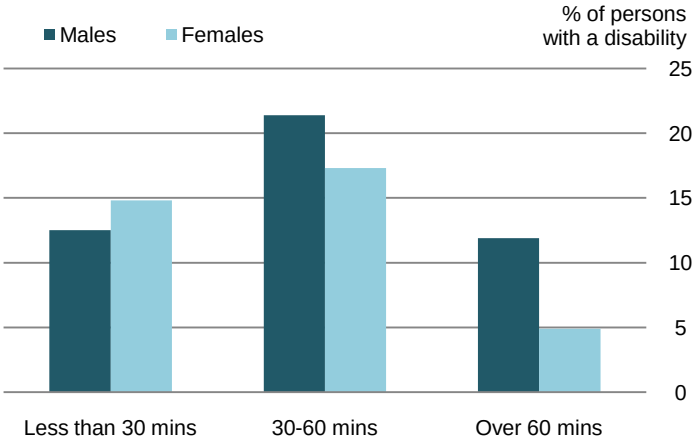


9.3 Time spent exercising or participating in sport

Persons with a disability in private households who reported that they had participated in sport or exercise in the four weeks prior to the Survey were asked how much time, on average, they spent per session: Less than 30 minutes; 30-60 minutes; Over 60 minutes.

Graph 9.5 shows that the highest proportion of persons with a disability in private households, 21% of males and 17% of females, spent between half an hour and one hour on their average exercise session. However, for the shorter and longer exercise sessions the pattern for males and females were reversed with 15% of females with a disability exercising for less than 30 minutes compared with 13% of males while 12% of males exercised for over 60 minutes, more than double the 5% rate for females.

Graph 9.5 Average duration of sports or exercise sessions for persons with a disability in private households by sex



Generally, older people were more likely to report that their average exercise session took less than 30 minutes – 11% of persons with a disability aged 65-74 living in private households indicated that this was the case, compared with 6% who indicated an average session of at least 60 minutes (see Table 9.6). In contrast, a higher proportion of persons in the 0-17 age group (21%) indicated that their average exercise session lasted for more than an hour, compared with 17% who indicated an average session of less than 30 minutes. The 30-60 minute exercise session was the most common for all age groups with the exception of the 75 & over age group.

Table 9.6 Average time spent participating in sports or physical exercise by persons in private households, by age group

% of row persons

Age group	Minutes			Persons with a disability
	Less than 30	30-60	Over 60	
Persons	**40,900**	**57,900**	**24,900**	**300,200**
Persons %	**14**	**19**	**8**	**300,200**
0-17	17	43	21	35,600
18-34	16	27	12	40,200
35-44	16	21	8	33,900
45-54	15	18	7	41,400
55-64	13	18	6	50,600
65-74	11	12	6	41,700
75 & over	10	6	3	56,700

9.4 Intensity of exercise or sport

To get a more complete picture of people's participation in sport or exercise, those who had participated in these activities over the four weeks prior to the Survey were asked about the intensity of their activity: No effort (no increase in breathing rate); Light effort (mild increase in breathing rate); Moderate effort (noticeable increase in breathing rate); Hard effort (heavy breathing, difficulty talking in full sentences); and Extremely hard effort (gasping for breath, unable to talk at all).

The highest proportion of males with a disability (18%) indicated that they engaged in a Moderate level of exercise, while 13% of females indicated they engaged in a Moderate level of exercise (see Graph 9.7). Men were more likely to report that they exercised at the more intense levels with 6% of males with a disability indicating that they did Hard or Extremely hard exercise in each session compared with 3% of females.

Graph 9.7 Intensity of exercise for persons with a disability in private households by sex

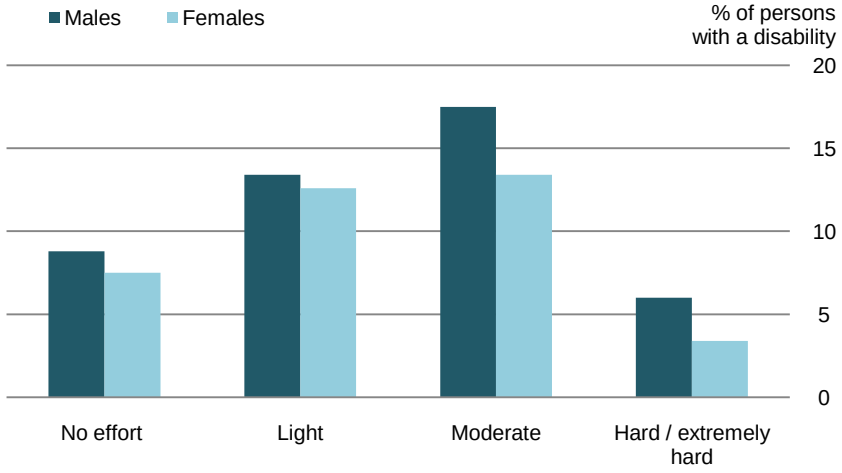


Table 9.8 illustrates the relationship between the intensity of physical exercise and age. Generally, those in the older age categories were more likely to report that their sports or exercise sessions involved No effort or Light intensity. Conversely, higher proportion of persons in the younger age groups, 14% of the 0-17 age group and 9% of the 18-34 age group reported they did Hard or Extremely hard exercise sessions.

Table 9.8 Intensity of participation in sports or physical exercise by persons in private households, by sex and age group

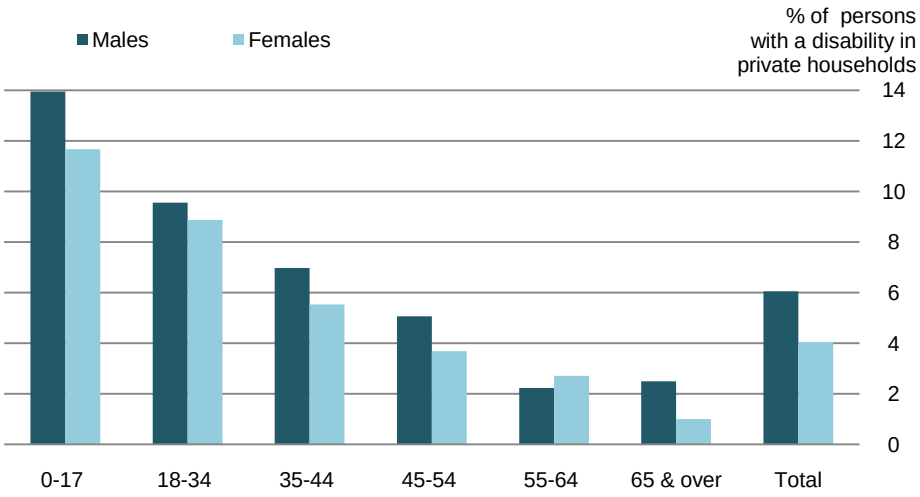
% of row persons

Age group	Level of intensity				Persons with a disability
	No effort	Light	Moderate	Hard / extremely hard	
Persons	**24,400**	**39,000**	**46,300**	**14,000**	**300,200**
Persons %	**8**	**13**	**15**	**5**	**300,200**
0-17	18	20	30	14	35,600
18-34	10	15	21	9	40,200
35-44	8	14	18	5	33,900
45-54	7	13	17	3	41,400
55-64	6	13	15	2	50,600
65-74	6	11	10	2	41,700
75 & over	5	8	4	1	56,700

9.5 Membership of sports groups or sports associations for people with a disability

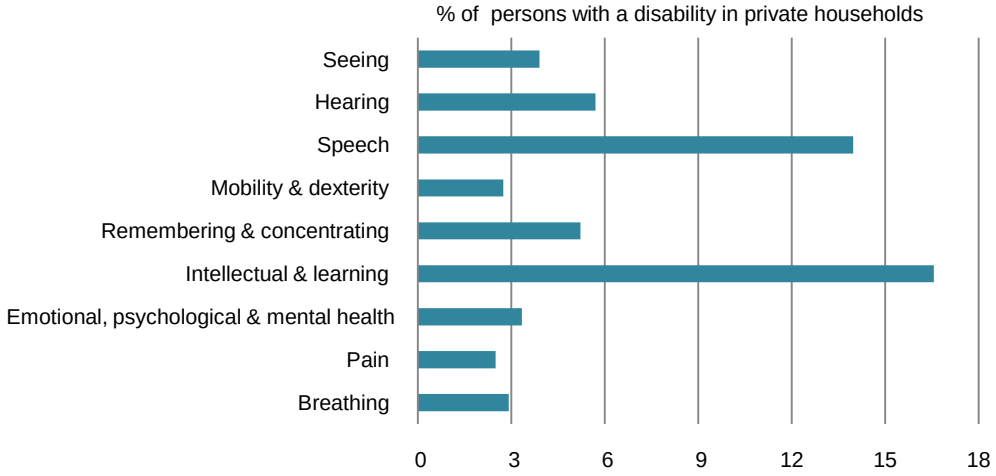
The NDS asked all people in private households whether or not they were members of any sports groups or sports associations for people with a disability. Overall, around 5% of persons with a disability were members of these types of organisations (see Graph 9.9). There was a strong relationship between membership and age: 13% of those aged 0-17, and 9% of those in the 18-34 age group, indicated that they were members. However, the proportion in the older age groups was much lower - just 2% of persons aged 65 & over were members of sports associations for people with disabilities. A higher proportion of males (6%) than females (4%) were members of these associations, and this difference held in all age groups except for the 55-64 age group.

Graph 9.9 Membership of sports groups/organisations for people with a disability by sex



Graph 9.10 shows the distribution of members of sports associations for people with a disability in private households by main disability. Two groups clearly stand out: 17% of those whose main disability was Intellectual & learning and 14% of those whose main disability was Speech were members of these types of organisations. The average age for these two main disabilities was 22 and 28 years respectively. For the remaining main disability groups, membership was between 3% and 6%.

Graph 9.10 Membership of sports groups/organisations for people with a disability by main disability



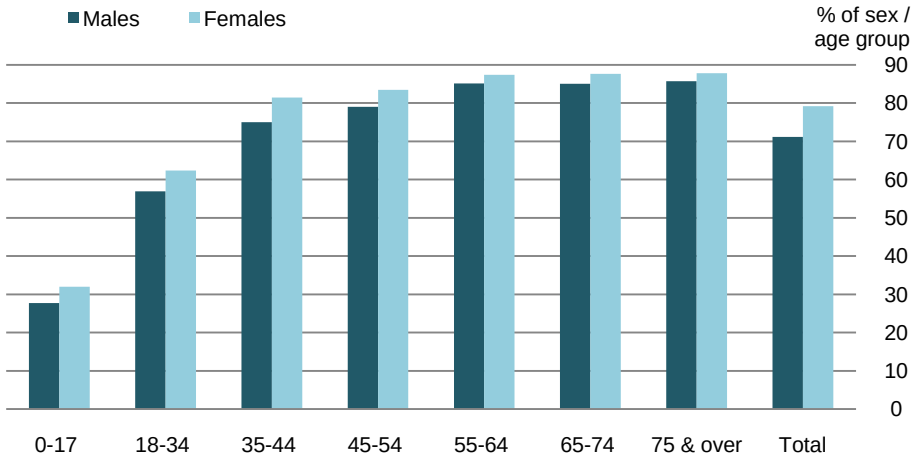
Chapter 10 General and Demographic Information

The final section of the NDS questionnaire dealt with miscellaneous issues relating to people's disabilities such as their medications, their general health and stamina and their smoking habits.

10.1 Regular medication

All people with a disability were asked whether or not they were on regular medication in connection with their disability. Overall, three-quarters (75%) of persons with a disability indicated that they did regularly take medication, while 25% indicated that they did not. As shown in Graph 10.1, males were less likely to take regular medication for their disability (71% compared with 79% for females). This tendency was more evident up to the age of 35. Graph 10.1 also shows that 29% of children (aged 0-17) were on regular medication compared with 87% of persons in the 75 & over age group.

Graph 10.1 People with a disability on regular medication for their disability by sex and age group



The incidence of regular medication was higher among people who lived in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes with 90% of persons reporting that they were on regular medication for their disability, compared with 74% of those in private households (see Detailed tables, Table10.1a and 10.1b).

Table 10.2 shows the percentage of people in each main disability/age group combination who were on regular medication. Although children were generally much less likely to be on regular medication than other age groups, a high proportion of children with certain main disabilities reported that they took regular medications. For example, 87% of all those aged 0-17 whose main disability was Breathing and 72% of those whose main disability was Pain reported that they were on regular medication. People with Breathing as their main disability had the most consistent rate across the age groups, varying from 82% for 18-34 year olds to 98% for 55-64 year olds. People with Intellectual & learning as their main disability were the least likely to report that they took regular medication for their disability (35%).

Table 10.2 People with a disability on regular medication for their disability by age group and main disability type

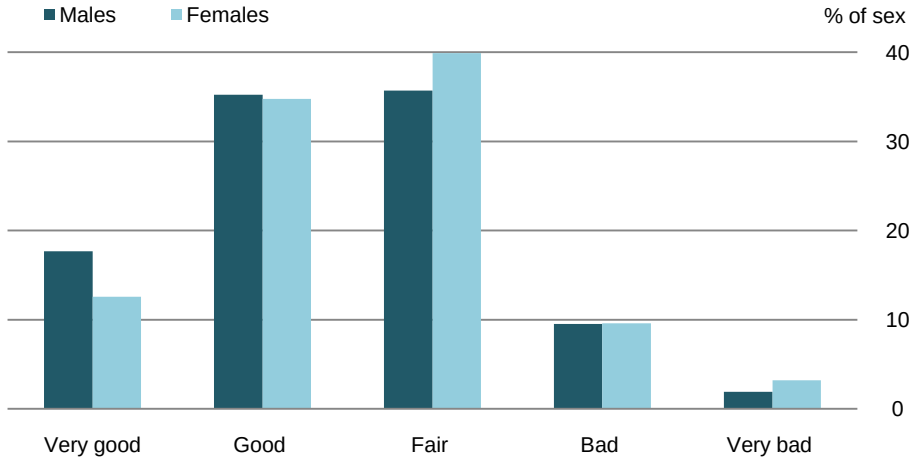
% of persons in each cell on regular medication persons

Main disability	0-17	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & over	Total	Persons with a disability
Persons	**35,900**	**41,400**	**35,400**	**43,200**	**52,600**	**44,900**	**72,600**	**325,800**	**325,800**
Persons %	**29**	**60**	**78**	**81**	**86**	**86**	**87**	**75**	**325,800**
Seeing	20	42	54	51	70	79	82	66	15,000
Hearing	9	26	34	42	42	50	73	48	22,200
Speech	18	47	60	64	67	92	90	49	6,300
Mobility & dexterity	51	59	79	84	88	89	89	84	89,000
Remembering & concentrating	29	58	81	79	86	89	82	72	19,300
Intellectual & learning	19	40	61	59	70	70	83	35	39,500
Emotional, psychological & mental health	35	78	90	90	94	86	97	85	45,300
Pain	72	82	86	87	90	93	91	89	62,600
Breathing	87	82	90	97	98	93	95	93	26,600

10.2 General health

The NDS asked all people with a disability to rate their general health on a five-point-scale ranging from Very good to Very bad. The most common responses to this question were Good (35%) and Fair (38%) (see Graph 10.3). One-in-ten persons reported having Bad health, while a further 3% of persons indicated that their health was very bad. Males were more likely to report that their health was Very good (18% compared with 13% of females).

Graph 10.3 People's rating of their general health by sex



A significantly higher proportion of those living in private households reported that their health was Very good (16%) compared with 6% of those in nursing homes, hospitals and children's home. Conversely, a significantly higher proportion of those in communal establishments reported that their health was Very bad 5% compared with 2% of persons in private households (see Detailed tables, Table 10.3a and 10.3b).

Table 10.4 provides information on how people's rating of their general health was distributed by main disability type. Those whose main disability was Intellectual & learning were most likely to report that they had Very good general health (40%). The proportions of people with Speech (31%) or Hearing (27%) as their main disability who indicated that they had Very good health were also well above the overall average of 15%. In contrast, those with Breathing (19%) or Pain (18%) as their main disability were most likely to report that their health was either Bad or Very bad.

Table 10.4 People's rating of their general health status by main disability

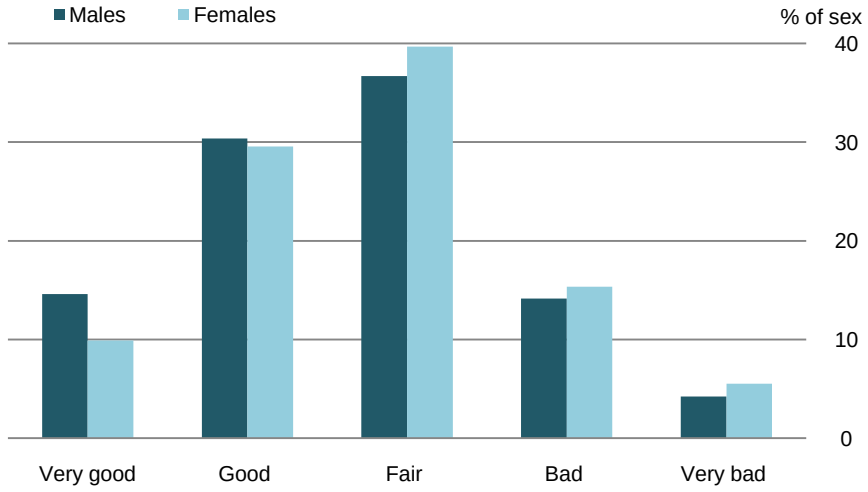
	% of row					persons
Main disability	**Very good**	**Good**	**Fair**	**Bad**	**Very bad**	**Persons with a disability**
Persons	**49,000**	**114,000**	**123,300**	**31,200**	**8,400**	**325,800**
Persons %	**15**	**35**	**38**	**10**	**3**	**325,800**
Seeing	17	43	33	6	1	15,000
Hearing	27	46	25	2	0	22,200
Speech	31	39	23	4	3	6,300
Mobility & dexterity	9	34	43	11	3	89,000
Remembering & concentrating	20	37	34	8	2	19,300
Intellectual & learning	40	43	14	2	1	39,500
Emotional, psychological & mental health	10	36	41	10	2	45,300
Pain	7	28	48	14	4	62,600
Breathing	7	26	48	15	4	26,600

10.3 Stamina

Using the same five-point-scale as for general health, the NDS also asked people with a disability to rate their own stamina. The distribution of responses by sex is shown in Graph 10.5. As with general health, the highest proportion of persons (38%) indicated that their stamina was Fair. Just under one-third (30%) said that their stamina was Good. Fifteen percent of persons with a disability indicated that their stamina was Bad, with a further 5% rating their stamina as Very bad.

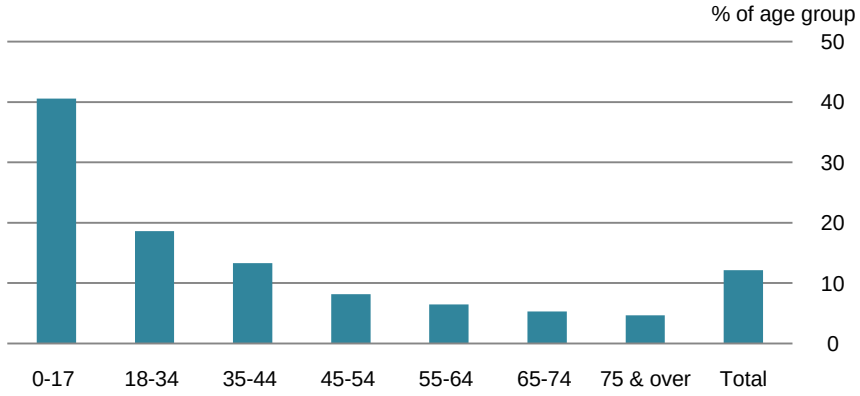
As with general health, males were more likely to report that their stamina was Very good (15% compared with 10% for females).

Graph 10.5 People's rating of their stamina by sex



As with people's assessments of their own general health, a higher proportion of those in the younger age groups reported better levels of stamina. As illustrated in Graph 10.6, while 41% of those in the 0-17 age group said that their stamina was Very good, this rating only applied to 5% of persons in the 75 & over age group.

Graph 10.6 People's rating of very good for their stamina by age group



Graph 10.7 shows differences between how people in private households and communal establishments rated their stamina. A much higher proportion of those in private households reported that they enjoyed Very good stamina (13% compared with 4% for those living in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes). Conversely, a greater proportion of persons in these communal establishments indicated that they had Fair (42%), Bad (18%) or Very Bad (8%) stamina.

Graph 10.7 People's rating of their stamina by accommodation type

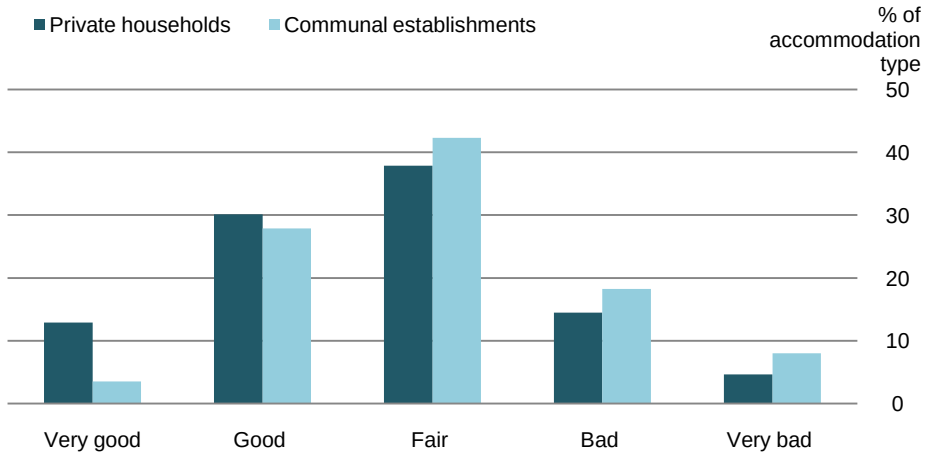


Table 10.8 presents information on how people in the nine main disability groups rated their own stamina. The Intellectual & learning (33%), Speech (25%) and Hearing (24%) main disability groups had high proportions of persons who rated their stamina as Very good. However, it should be noted that the average age of those whose main disability were Intellectual & learning (24 years) or Speech (36 years) were well below the national average of 53 years (see Chapter 1, Table 1.3). Those with Mobility & dexterity, Pain or Breathing as their main disability were least likely to report that their stamina was Very good (6% in all cases). Consistent with this, they were also the groups with the highest proportion of persons saying that their stamina was Bad or Very bad.

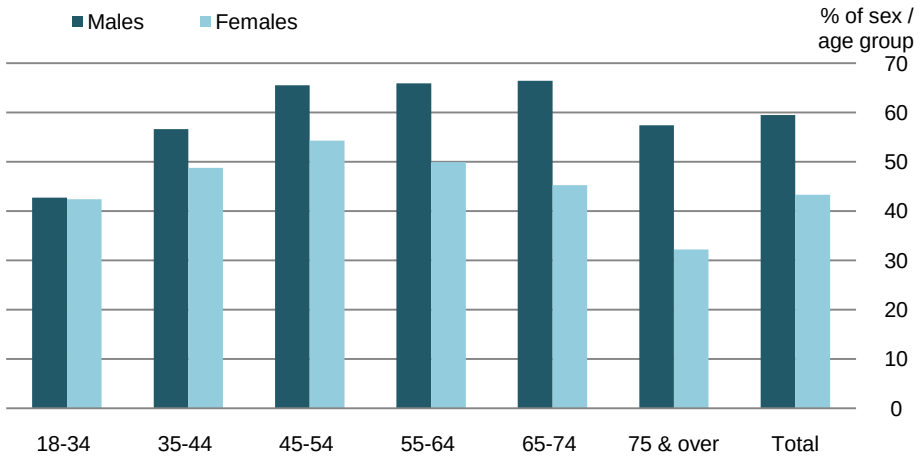
Table 10.8 People's rating of their stamina by main disability

				% of row	persons
Main disability	**Very good**	**Good**	**Fair**	**Bad or Very bad**	**Persons with a disability**
Persons	**39,600**	**97,600**	**124,600**	**64,100**	**325,800**
Persons %	**12**	**30**	**38**	**20**	**325,800**
Seeing	14	38	34	13	15,000
Hearing	24	44	25	7	22,200
Speech	25	34	26	14	6,300
Mobility & dexterity	6	26	43	26	89,000
Remembering & concentrating	15	32	34	19	19,300
Intellectual & learning	33	38	22	7	39,500
Emotional, psychological & mental health	9	31	41	19	45,300
Pain	6	23	47	23	62,600
Breathing	6	25	40	28	26,600

10.4 Smoking

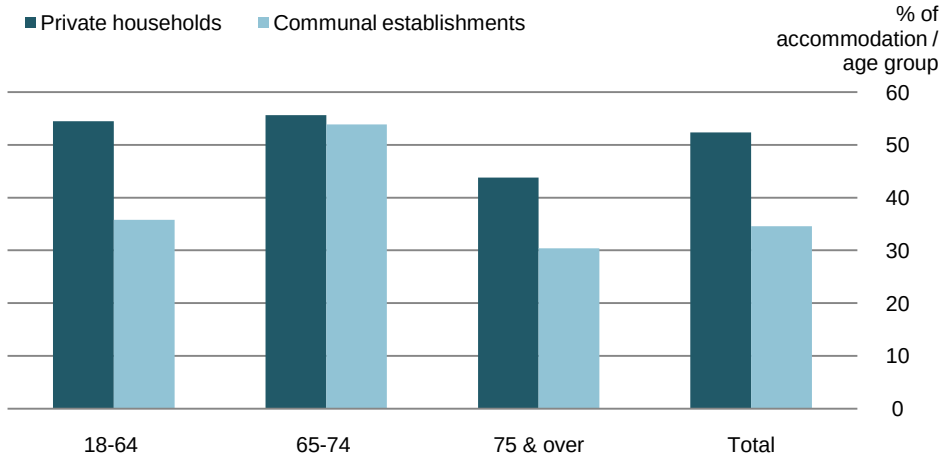
Finally, the NDS asked all adults with a disability whether they regularly smoked or had done so in the past. Overall, just over half (51%) of all adults with a disability reported that they regularly smoked or had smoked in the past. As shown in Graph 10.9, a greater proportion of males with a disability smoked (60%) compared with 43% of females.

Graph 10.9 People with a disability who regularly smoke, or who regularly smoked in the past by sex and age group



Graph 10.10 shows that a much higher proportion of adults in private households smoked or had previously smoked regularly (53%) compared with 35% of those living in nursing homes, hospitals and children's homes. This difference was particularly pronounced for younger adults and for those aged 75 & over.

Graph 10.10 People with a disability who regularly smoke, or who regularly smoked in the past by age group and accommodation type



Those whose main disability was Breathing were the most likely to be smokers or to have regularly smoked in the past (65%) (see Graph 10.11). The Emotional, psychological & mental health main disability group had the second highest proportion of smokers (63%).

Graph 10.11 People with a disability who regularly smoke, or who regularly smoked in the past by main disability