

Demographics

DWP Press Release Feb 2006.

Updated estimate of the numbers of disabled people including people with limiting longstanding illnesses, and their associated spending power

If more people with disabilities are joining the workforce there may need to be revisions in systems of work. The data suggest the overall potential scale of issues arising.

The Department for Work and Pensions has updated its estimates which show there are over 10 million disabled people in Britain, including people with limiting longstanding illnesses; of which, 4.6 million are over State Pension Age and 700,000 are children [i.e. there are 4.6 million adults of working age who would be classed as disabled]. The definition of disability includes all those with significant difficulty performing day-to-day activities.

Everyone so defined would meet the definition required for protection under the Disability Discrimination Act.

Disabled people in Great Britain, including people with limiting longstanding illnesses – figures are in millions

Year	Children	Adults	All ages
2002-03	0.7	9.7	10.4
2003-04	0.7	9.5	10.1

Comment

It is clear that liability-related settings (e.g. work, motoring, leisure) will include a significant proportion of people with significant disabilities. There are 27 million adults occupied in workplace settings, if all else was equal, 10% or more of these would have significant disabilities. Often, the disabled are owed a higher standard of care.

Variations in tabulated numbers could be the result of estimation errors from year to year.