



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

# Disability Living Allowance

## Statistical Ad Hoc

**Data on DLA claimants in hospital  
(Great Britain)**

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January 2016

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# Background

This publication provides ad hoc statistics on Disability Living Allowance claimants who are in (or have been in) hospital and have been impacted by the hospital suspension rule.

The Department for Work and Pensions has provided this information to the Social Security Advisory Council to consider as part of an equality analysis in relation to a proposed policy change following the case of *Cameron Mathieson v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions* [2015] UKSC 47.

Therefore we are publishing this data to ensure that this information is within the public domain for all relevant parties to consider and use.

More information on DLA Statistics can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dwp-statistics-tabulation-tool>

More information on PIP statistics can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/personal-independence-payment-statistics>

Disability Living Allowance (DLA), which was introduced in 1992, provides a contribution towards the extra costs faced by disabled people as a result of a disability. It is a non-means-tested, non-taxable and non-contributory cash benefit which can be paid in or out of work or education. Broadly, entitlement to DLA depends on the extent to which the person needs help with personal care, needs supervision or has difficulties with walking.

DLA consists of a care component and a mobility component. The care component has three levels of benefit according to different requirements for care. The mobility component has two rates. The lower rate mobility component can be paid from age 5, the higher rate mobility component can be paid from age 3. The care component can be paid from age 3 months. To qualify for the care component and lower rate mobility component the needs of children under age 16 must be substantially in excess of the normal requirements of a child of the same age who is in normal health.

As of April 2013, new legislation came into force, which introduced Personal Independence Payment (PIP), a new disability benefit that is intended to replace DLA for claimants of working age. PIP is different from DLA in a number of material respects. PIP claimants must be assessed by a health care professional and entitlement is determined according to whether a person meets the point's threshold, which is arrived at by selecting appropriate descriptors in relation to daily living and mobility activities. The general rule is that awards should be for a fixed term period rather than indefinite.

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PIP replaced DLA for all new claims made by persons aged 16-64 across Great Britain (GB) on 10 June 2013. DLA recipients have since been invited to claim for PIP. However, DLA recipients who are under 16 or who were aged 65 or over, on 8 April 2013 will remain on DLA.

### **The hospitalisation rule**

The rules about payment of DLA and PIP where a person is receiving treatment as an in-patient in an NHS or Defence Council hospital or other similar institution are contained in regulations 8, 10, 12A and 12B of the Social Security (Disability Living Allowance) Regulations 1991 and regulations 29 and 30 of the Social Security (Personal Independence Payment) Regulations 2013. Whilst an in-patient may be able to establish an underlying entitlement to DLA or PIP, these regulations provide that the benefits are generally not payable during their stay in hospital. This approach, which has been in place for DLA since its inception in 1992, is based on the premise that the needs of the claimant are being met by the National Health Service (NHS) and that to continue to pay these benefits, in order to support the additional costs of having a disability, would amount to double provision of funding from the public purse.

However, the hospitalisation rules are subject to exceptions where a person is already entitled to DLA or PIP at the time of admission to the hospital or other similar institution. In such cases they will continue to receive payments for a limited period. If they are aged 16 or over, DLA or PIP continues to be paid for the first 28 days. In the case of DLA recipients under 16 years old, since 1992 social security regulations have provided that payments continue for a longer period of 84 days. This longer period was explained by Government Ministers in 2003 as being appropriate “in recognition of the therapeutic value of visits and treats for a disabled child who is adjusting to life in hospital”.

In July 2015, the withdrawal of payment of DLA after 84 days in hospital for persons under the age of 16 years old was successfully challenged in the Supreme Court, in the case of *Cameron Mathieson v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions* [2015] UKSC 47.

# Method

The data within this publication was sourced from Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Computer System claimant records.

These statistics have been developed and quality assured using guidelines set out by the UK Statistics Authority.

The DLA data has not been previously published, however, they are of sufficient quality for release and use within the public domain.

The PIP data is previously published and can be found at: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

More detail on the methodology used to produce these data is provided in the footnotes that accompany the data tables and chart.

# Results

## DLA and PIP Caseload

Table 1 below shows the latest available statistics on the number of people in receipt of DLA and PIP (aged 16 to 64 years), split by age band.

This data shows that as at February 2015 there were 1.8 million people in receipt of DLA, with the majority (around 60%) being over the age of 45 years old.

As at July 2015, 520 thousand people were claiming PIP, and similarly around 60% were over the age of 45 years old.

**Table 1: DLA and PIP caseload for persons aged 16 to 64 years**

AGE	DLA		PIP	
	Total	%	Total	%
16 to 17	53,140	3%	21,400	4%
18 to 24	154,820	9%	38,290	7%
25 to 29	104,290	6%	28,380	5%
30 to 34	106,490	6%	33,900	7%
35 to 39	115,850	6%	38,640	7%
40 to 44	165,880	9%	54,780	11%
45 to 49	223,630	12%	69,160	13%
50 to 54	266,270	15%	79,270	15%
55 to 59	284,120	16%	81,410	16%
60 to 64	318,220	18%	76,160	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,792,710</b>		<b>521,380</b>	

**DLA Source Data:** Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS), February 2015. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

**PIP Source Data:** Personal Independence Payment Official Statistics, July 2015. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

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Table 2 provides a further breakdown of the caseload (for all ages) by age and sex.

This shows that 51% of the total DLA caseload (all ages) are male. This proportion falls to 49% when looking only at the age groups between 16 and 64. In comparison 45% of the PIP caseload (16-64 year olds) are male.

For DLA there are a higher proportion of males in the under 40 year old caseload, but there are more females in the 40 and over age groups. The highest proportion of males are found within the 5 to 15 age groups (71%) and females within the over 50s groups (55%).

For PIP there are a higher proportion of males in the under 25 year old caseload, but there are more females in the 25 and over age groups. The highest proportion of males are found within the 16 to 17 age group (65%) and females within the 40-54 age groups (59%).

When comparing DLA and PIP, the proportion of male and females across age bands are broadly consistent – within 12 percentage points for the 16 to 49 age groups and within 5 percentage points for the 50 and over age groups.

**Table 2: DLA and PIP caseload by age and sex (all ages)**

AGE	DLA			PIP		
	Female	Male	% Male	Female	Male	% Male
Under 5	19,280	34,590	64%			
5 to 10	50,590	122,170	71%			
11 to 15	48,380	116,530	71%			
16 to 17	16,460	36,670	69%	7,430	13,970	65%
18 to 24	55,110	99,710	64%	18,430	19,860	52%
25 to 29	45,010	59,280	57%	15,710	12,680	45%
30 to 34	49,970	56,530	53%	19,380	14,510	43%
35 to 39	56,920	58,930	51%	22,360	16,280	42%
40 to 44	85,900	79,980	48%	32,410	22,360	41%
45 to 49	119,190	104,440	47%	40,980	28,180	41%
50 to 54	145,250	121,020	45%	46,400	32,870	41%
55 to 59	157,330	126,790	45%	45,270	36,150	44%
60 to 64	174,860	143,350	45%	37,960	38,200	50%
65 and over	532,670	440,010	45%	4,530	4,490	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,556,920</b>	<b>1,600,000</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>290,860</b>	<b>239,560</b>	<b>45%</b>

**DLA Source Data:** Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS), February 2015. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

**PIP Source Data:** Personal Independence Payment Official Statistics, July 2015. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

## **DLA Caseload in Hospital**

Table 3 below provides a breakdown of the DLA caseload (for all ages) by age and disability grouping, for recipients that are affected by the hospitalisation rule (see table notes).

Data about those affected by the hospitalisation rules is not available for PIP.

In total 32,510 DLA recipients (in the four quarters prior to the introduction of PIP) are affected by the hospitalisation rule.

The data shows that the highest number of DLA recipients affected by the hospitalisation rule are in the age groups 65-69 (3,700, which is 11% of all recipients affected) and 60-64 (3,330, which is 10% of all recipients affected) and the group where fewest DLA recipients are affected are those under 16 (190, which is 0.6% of all recipients affected).

Those with 'Physical' and 'Other Mental' disabilities are affected by the hospitalisation rule the most (44% of all recipients affected each). For the under 11 and 60 and over age groups, over 50% of the caseload affected have a 'physical' disability and over 50% of the 12-59 year old caseload affected have a 'non-physical' disability (with the 30-34 year olds being the highest – 86%).



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**Table 3: DLA recipients by age and physical/non-physical disabilities affected by the hospitalisation rule in the quarters May 2012, August 2012, November 2012 and February 2013**

Age	Learning Difficulties	Behavioural Disorder	Other Mental	Physical	TOTAL
Under 5	0	0	0	50	50
5 to under 11	0	0	0	30	30
11 to under 16	30	20	30	30	110
16 - 17	50	30	70	40	190
18 - 24	430	120	860	250	1,650
25 - 29	320	80	1,160	260	1,820
30 - 34	310	50	1,360	260	1,990
35 - 39	280	40	1,300	330	1,940
40 - 44	320	20	1,640	530	2,520
45 - 49	400	30	1,720	750	2,910
50 - 54	440	20	1,510	860	2,840
55 - 59	310	20	1,260	1,190	2,770
60 - 64	290	10	1,120	1,910	3,330
65 - 69	230	0	1,050	2,420	3,700
70 - 74	140	0	610	1,860	2,620
75 - 79	100	0	340	1,530	1,980
80 - 84	60	0	130	1,260	1,450
85 - 89	0	0	10	470	480
90 and over	0	0	0	150	150
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,710</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>14,180</b>	<b>14,180</b>	<b>32,510</b>

**Source Data:** Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). Figures show the total number of individuals who have had a hospital suspension in place during any of the quarterly WPLS datasets for May12, Aug12, Nov12 and Feb13. Note, if an individual had a hospital suspension in place in more than one quarter they are only counted once. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Notes;

1. For individuals aged 0-15 a Hospital Suspension Code is applied after the claimant has spent 84 days in hospital. For individuals aged 16 and over a Hospital Suspension Code is applied after the claimant has spent 28 days in hospital. Suspension Codes are recorded on DWP administrative data.

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Table 4 and figure 1 provide a further age breakdown of the DLA caseload (for the under 18s) by age and disability grouping, for recipients that are affected by the hospitalisation rule (see table notes).

Data about those affected by the hospitalisation rules is not available for PIP.

In total 380 under 18 year old DLA recipients (in the four quarters prior to the introduction of PIP) are affected by the hospitalisation rule. The data shows that the highest number of under 18 year old DLA recipients affected by the hospitalisation rule are in the age group 16-17 (190 or 50%).

Of those recipients affected, the age group with the highest proportion of physical disabilities are the 0-11 year olds (57%) and the age group with the highest proportion of mental disabilities are the 16-17 year olds (63%).

Of all under 18s recipients affected by the hospitalisation rule, 63% (240) have a mental disability and 37% (140) a physical disability. If you look at each age group separately, the proportion affected with physical disabilities is highest in the 0-11 age group (89%). A higher proportion of mental disabilities are found within the 12-15 and 16-17 year old age groups (80% and 79% respectively). Figure 1 illustrates this.

**Table 4: Under 18 year old DLA recipients affected by hospitalisation rule by age and physical/non-physical disabilities in the quarters May 2012, August 2012, November 2012 and February 2013**

	Age 0-11	Age 12-15	Age 16-17	Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>380</b>
Physical	80	20	40	140
Mental	10	80	150	240

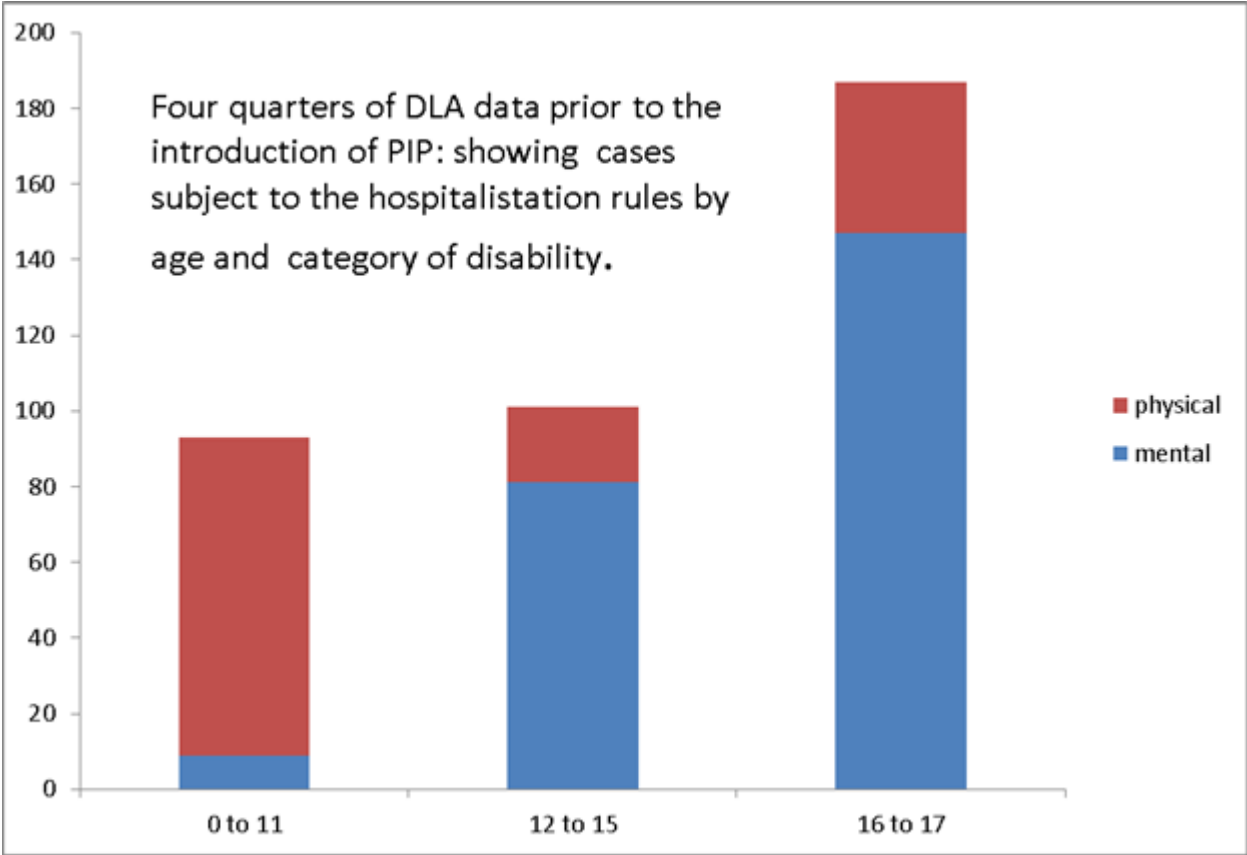
**Source data:** Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). Figures show the total number of individuals who have had a hospital suspension in place during any of the quarterly WPLS datasets for May12, Aug12, Nov12 and Feb13. Note, if an individual had a hospital suspension in place in more than one quarter they are only counted once. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Notes;

1. For individuals aged 0-15 a Hospital Suspension Code is applied after the claimant has spent 84 days in hospital. For individuals aged 16 and over a Hospital Suspension Code is applied after the claimant has spent 28 days in hospital. Suspension Codes are recorded on DWP administrative data.

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Figure 1: Under 18 year old DLA recipients affected by hospitalisation rule by age and disability in the quarters May 2012, August 2012, November 2012 and February 2013



# Contact Points for Further Information

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Department for Work and Pensions

January 2016