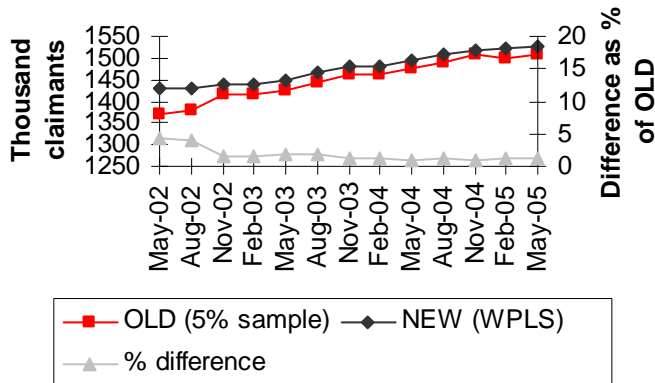


## Attendance Allowance data (AA)

### Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) data compared to currently published 5% sample data

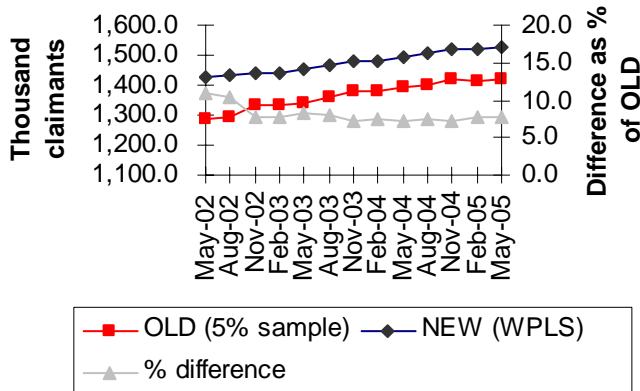
The WPLS data series for Attendance Allowance (AA) is only available from May 2002 to the present. Cases where the claimant has died have been removed from the WPLS, whereas many such cases persist in the 5 per cent sample data for several months following death. Consequently the 5 per cent sample data provides two measures of caseload, both of which consist of exactly the same sample cases.

**Figure 1: Attendance Allowance: comparison of liveloads, 5 per cent sample and WPLS data**



‘Liveload’ is calculated using a uniform rating factor of 20 and fully reflects the number of recently deceased clients still appearing in the 5 per cent sample dataset. On average the WPLS caseload is 1.7% greater than the liveload total (24,500 cases).

**Figure 2: Attendance Allowance payload: comparison of 5% sample and WPLS data**



‘Payload’ is somewhat smaller than liveload, and provides the published caseload. It is produced using a variable rating factor of approximately 19, which removes the estimated effect of cases terminated due to death. On average the WPLS caseload is 8% (109,000 cases) greater than the payload total, suggesting that the payload is adjusted downwards to too great an extent.

Investigation of November 2003 data revealed that the caseload shown by the 100% data was 18,400 greater than the 5% sample liveload. The main causes of this difference (see Glossary for an explanation of terms) have been identified and are:

- 1 **Retrospection** accounts for approximately 35,700 cases at November 2003 which are absent from the 5 per cent sample data.
- 2 **Late terminations** At November 2003, the 5% sample data contains approximately 17,700 cases which appear as live, but which in fact have terminated, and are absent from the WPLS data. Combining these two elements produces a net difference of 18,000 cases.

The remaining difference is equivalent to 0.02 percent of total caseload. To some extent this will be due to sampling error whereby the caseload identified by the 5% sample data may be up to 10,800 greater or smaller than the true population value, assuming a 95% confidence interval.

## **Glossary**

**Retrospection** arises from the delays which occur in practice between some new claims becoming eligible and their entry onto the computer system. If a case has not been added to the computer system by the time the 5% sample data is extracted (the reference date), it will not be counted (although benefit will be paid). The WPLS, however, incorporates information added to the computer system after the reference date.

The addition of such 'late' information is an important source of difference between the caseloads obtained from 5% sample and WPLS data, and generally results in the WPLS including more cases than the 5% sample data.

### **Late terminations**

Delays can exist between a claim terminating and its removal from the computer system. Such cases will be included in the caseload obtained from the 5% sample data. When information is subsequently received that the claim has ended through claimant death, these cases are removed from the 100% data with respect to a point in time. However, any other form of late termination is not accounted for in the WPLS.

### **Sampling error**

By definition, WPLS data yields the true population value. By contrast statistics published from 5% sample data (obtained by rating up by a factor of 20) are subject to sampling error and are actually estimates of the true population value. By chance, an estimate of the population value, obtained from the 5% sample data, may be slightly lower or slightly higher than the true population value.