



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Disability Living Allowance: alcohol and drugs misuse

Comparison of 2000/01 and 2010/11 expenditure
and caseload data

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Introduction

This analysis compares 2000/01 and 2010/11 caseloads and expenditure on Disability Living Allowance cases where the main disabling condition is alcohol or drugs misuse.

Methodology

Calculations are based on quarterly caseload and average weekly amount of benefit data by main disabling condition, aligned to totals from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study and benefit expenditure tables published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/benefit-expenditure-tables>

Results

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) expenditure and claimants, with Alcohol or Drugs Misuse as a main disabling condition, Great Britain - 2000/01 and 2010/11			
		All	Alcohol or drugs misuse
£m real terms, 2013/14 prices	2000/01	8,117	23
	2010/11	12,570	74
annual average caseload (thousands)	2000/01	2,255.0	6.7
	2010/11	3,204.8	21.6

Source: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, 5% sample data and Budget 2013 benefit expenditure tables.

- 1) Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and expenditure figures to the nearest £1 million.
- 2) 2000/01 figures are taken from https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/200451/dla_med_cond_caseloads_expend_09_10.xls and converted to 2013/14 prices using GDP deflators published by HM Treasury at Budget 2013.
- 3) 2010/11 figures include awards where the main disabling condition was alcohol-related cirrhosis, which is included in the alcohol or drugs misuse figures in 2000/01.

4) DLA caseloads give the number of people with DLA in payment and so exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

5) A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and / or mobility because of their disability. For example, a customer would not be awarded DLA on the basis of a diagnosis of alcohol or drugs misuse. The decision is based upon the care / supervision and difficulty getting around as a result of the substance dependency and any associated physical or psychological complications. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.

6) The Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study is the preferred source for analysis, except where more detailed information is only available via 5% sample data. Generally sample data is used for analysis on DLA disabling condition as the information is more complete.

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