

Participation restriction

Key facts from the Life Opportunities Survey - Wave one results, 2009/11(1)

The Life Opportunities Survey (LOS) is a large-scale longitudinal survey of disability in Great Britain. Results from the full first wave of the survey were published on the 8th December 2011 and the information below presents some of the key findings from this report. The report and the key findings below update the interim findings that were published in December 2010 based on the first half of wave one interviews.

The information below looks at the type and number of participation restrictions faced by adults, aged 16 and over. An adult has a participation restriction if they experience at least one barrier to taking part in any of the eight key life areas asked about(2).

Participation restriction by life area

Adults with impairment(3) were significantly more likely than adults without impairment to experience a participation restriction to:

- education and training (that is, in the learning opportunities they had) (16 per cent compared with 9 per cent)
- employment (that is, in the type or amount of paid work they did) (57 per cent compared with 26 per cent)
- using transport (75 per cent compared with 60 per cent)
- leisure activities (82 per cent compared with 78 per cent)

Households with at least one person with impairment were significantly more likely than households without any people with impairment to experience a participation restriction to economic life and living standards (that is, being able to afford expenses or make loan repayments) (44 per cent compared with 29 per cent).

Participation restriction count

The participation restriction count is a count of between zero and eight that is calculated for each respondent as the sum of the number of life areas in which a participation restriction has been reported. For example, if an

1 http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/los/index.php?page=los_wor

2 The eight life areas are: education and training, employment, economic life and living standards, transport, leisure activities, social contact, accessibility of housing and accessibility outside the home.

3 Please refer to the Introduction of the Life Opportunities Survey Wave one report, 2009/11, for the definition of impairment status.

individual was restricted in the work that they could do and in the learning opportunities they could take part in then their participation restriction count would be two.

As Table 1 shows, adults with impairment were more likely to have a participation restriction count of more than 3 compared with adults without impairment (59 per cent and 34 per cent respectively).

Table 1: Participation restriction count for adults by impairment status, 2009/11

Count	Percentage of adults without impairment	Percentage of adults with impairment
0	16	8
1	24	14
2	26	20
3	20	23
4	9	18
5	4	11
6	1	5
7	0	2
8

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave One Results, 2009/11