

Domestic life and social care

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 explores the assistance received by adults, aged 16 and over, with everyday activities and the care provided.

Source of assistance received

As seen in Table 1, adults with impairment(2) who required assistance completing everyday activities were most likely to receive assistance from a family member or relative (81 per cent). 25 per cent of adults with impairment received assistance from a friend or neighbour.

The findings were similar when using the Equality Act definition of disability(2).

Table 1: Sources of assistance received by adults with impairment who required assistance completing everyday activities, 2009/11

Source of assistance	Percentage of adults with impairment
Family member or relative	81
Friend or neighbour	25
NHS nurse/medical carer	11
Social worker	4
Paid help inside the home	12
Paid help outside the home	14
Unpaid carer (volunteer)	2
Other person	4
No-one	3

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

Frequency of assistance received

80 per cent of adults with impairment often or always received assistance when it was required.

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

2 Please refer to the Introduction of the Life Opportunities Survey Wave one report, 2009/11, for the definitions of impairment status and Equality Act disability status.

Having a say over assistance received

82 per cent of adults with impairment reported that they either always or often had a say over the assistance that they received.

Care provided for other people

Adults with impairment were more likely to be providing informal care for other household members (in a non-professional capacity) than adults without impairment (15 per cent and 8 per cent respectively).

Similarly, 15 per cent of adults with impairment provided informal care for other people who did not live in their household (in a non-professional capacity), compared with 13 per cent of adults without impairment.

Time spent caring for others

Adults with impairment who provided informal care for others were more likely to spend longer hours caring for others than adults without impairment. Adults with impairment were more likely to spend 50+ hours per week providing care than adults without impairment (15 per cent and 11 per cent respectively).