

Children

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 LOS interviewed adults aged 16 and over directly. However, some key information about children aged 11-15 living within the household was collected from their parents in order to determine prevalence of disabled children and participation restriction in four key areas of a child's life: education; leisure and play; transport; and personal relationships. The questions were answered by parental proxy, whereby the parents answered the questions on behalf of their children.

Participation restrictions

11 per cent of children aged 11 to 15 had one or more impairment(2). As seen in Table 1, children with impairment were more likely to have experienced participation restrictions than children without impairment.

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

Children with impairment were more likely to experience participation restriction than children without impairment:

- 28 per cent of children with impairment experienced a participation restriction to education compared with three per cent of children without impairment.
- 28 per cent of children with impairment experienced a participation restriction to leisure or play compared with nine per cent of children without impairment.
- 20 per cent of children with impairment experienced a participation restriction to transport compared with six per cent of children without impairment.

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.

- 20 per cent of children with impairment experienced a participation restriction to personal relationships compared with one per cent of children without impairment.

Table 1: Participation restrictions that children experienced by impairment status, 2009/11

Restriction	Percentage of children without impairment	Percentage of children with impairment
Education	3	28
Leisure or play	9	28
Transport	6	20
Personal relationships	1	20

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

Barriers to participation

46 per cent of children with impairment were reported to have experienced a barrier to participation compared with 14 per cent of children without impairment.

One of the most common causes of participation restriction for children with impairment was the attitudes of others (34 per cent). Parents of children with impairment also reported their child's participation restriction was in relation to a health condition, illness or impairment or a disability (46 per cent and 35 per cent respectively).