

Ad Hoc statistics of disability, from the ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey Q1 2013

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Contents

Background 3
Methodology 5
Results 6

Background

Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

The ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey is a monthly face-to-face survey, which conducts around 1,100 interviews a month. It is a national cross-sectional survey, and provides a snapshot of views and opinions. It is a fast way of obtaining information, with data available within a month of fieldwork ending.

The DWP commissions a disability module to be run on this survey on 8 waves (months) of the year. The themes vary between waves. Quarter 1 2013 included the following themes:

- Impairment/disability
- Aids and adaptations
- Accessing services
- Employment
- Government Spending/Benefits
- Knowledge of Equality Act and Disability Discrimination Act
- Media
- Paralympics
- Public view of disabled people
- Quality of life
- Transportation difficulties

Policy Context

The Government wants to promote positive attitudes and behaviours towards disabled people to enable participation in work, community life and wider society, tackling discrimination and harassment wherever it occurs.

As part of the new Disability Strategy 'Fulfilling Potential' discussions disabled people told us that many of the barriers they face are attitudinal.

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We use the ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey to measure changes in attitudes towards disabled people. As part of Fulfilling Potential, the new disability strategy, this data will feed into the Fulfilling Potential Disability Outcome and Indicator Framework.

Methodology

This data shows figures the first three waves of the disability module of the 2013 ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, broken down by whether the individual is disabled or not wherever possible. All data is for the UK.

More information on the ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey can be found on the ONS website www.statistics.gov.uk.

Definition of disability

Disabled people are defined in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act.

Weighting

We have used an individual weight on this data. This weight controls for the unequal probability of selection. As the likelihood that a household is selected with only 1 or 2 adults is higher than households with many adults.

Results

All of the results are in the accompanying Excel spreadsheet.

The data, where possible has been split to show the results of disabled and non-disabled people individually.

Some headline results are:

- 62% of people calculated to be disabled, do not think of themselves as disabled. The most cited reason for this is that respondents can carry out their normal day-to-day activities.
- Over half of respondents (regardless of whether they are disabled or not) stated that the Paralympics have caused them to have a positive view of disability.
- Around 6 out of 10 respondents said that an improvement to their health condition would make the biggest improvement to their quality of life.

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