



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Paralympic data from the ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

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Background

Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

The ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey is a national cross-sectional survey, which provides a snapshot of views and opinions. It currently runs eight months of the year, and conducts around 1,100 interviews each month. 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 asking questions on a number of themes. One of the themes the survey focuses on is Paralympic attitudes.

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.

One of the aims of the Paralympic Legacy is to help transform the attitudes and perceptions of disabled people. This is also a core strand of Fulfilling Potential, the cross-government disability strategy. The Legacy and strategy are using the positive impact of the Games as one of the drivers to change attitudes and perceptions towards disabled people.

Methodology

This data shows figures from 2013, and the first quarter of 2014 (January, February and March 2014). All data is for the UK.

At the beginning of 2014 we changed the Paralympic question asked on the survey. This was done so that the questions better reflect the work around the Paralympic legacy. Comparisons between 2013 and 2014 data should not be made.

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 of a household with only 1 or 2 adults being selected is higher than that of a household with many adults.

Results

2013 results

Would you say that the 2012 Paralympic Games have caused you to have a more positive view of disabled people, a more negative view of disabled people, or have your views remained the same?

	Disabled people	Non-disabled people	Total population
<i>Unweighted sample size</i>	1,510	6,560	7,980
Positive	48.5%	48.5%	48.5%
Stayed the same	50.6%	51.2%	51.0%
Negative	0.9%	-	-

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

Notes: Individuals are defined as disabled in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 2013
2013 data only

Q1 2014 results¹

Since the Paralympic games in 2012, do you have a more positive view of disabled people?

	Disabled people	Non-disabled people	Total population
<i>Unweighted sample size</i>	580	2,450	3,030
Yes	42.6%	40.6%	41.0%
No	6.9%	5.0%	5.4%
View has remained the same	50.4%	54.4%	53.6%

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

Notes: Individuals are defined as disabled in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act
Q1 2014 data only

¹ Due to questionnaire changes 2013 and 2014 data should not be compared.

Since the Paralympic games in 2012, do you think that the attitude of the general public towards disabled people has improved?

	Disabled people	Non-disabled People	Total population
<i>Unweighted sample size</i>	360	1,530	1,890
Yes	56.1%	70.7%	68.0%
No	19.4%	9.4%	11.3%
View has remained the same	24.4%	19.9%	20.7%

Source: Opinions and Lifestyle Survey

Notes: Individuals are defined as disabled in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act Q1 2014 data only

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