

Freedom of Information request 1470/2011

Received 27 May 2011

Published 25 July 2011

Information request

How many people living in Ayrshire who receive Disability Living Allowance are known to have a drug addiction? How many of the above people are addicted to heroin, how many are addicted to cocaine, and how many are addicted to another drug?

How many people living in Ayrshire who receive Disability Living Allowance are known to have an alcohol addiction? How many people living in Ayrshire who receive Disability Living Allowance are on a methadone programme?

DWP response

We do not collate centrally the numbers of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claimants with a drug or alcohol addiction, what drugs they are addicted to, or whether they are on a methadone programme.

Entitlement to DLA depends on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. A diagnosed impairment or medical condition does not in most cases mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA, however, the rates of care and mobility do tend to differ by the main disabling condition. It is also important to note that where more than one disability is present only the main disabling condition is recorded.

We do have information on DLA claimants whose main disabling condition is recorded as drug or alcohol abuse and the figures for East, North and South Ayrshire Local Authorities are attached.

You may also be interested in various research reports on benefit claimants who misuse drugs and alcohol, for example their experiences of employment and the benefit system, and research estimating total numbers of working age benefit claimants who misuse drugs or alcohol. Although some of this research covered England only, the results illustrate the relationship between the numbers of claimants with alcohol or drug problems recorded as their main medical condition, and the estimated total numbers of alcohol or drug misusers on benefits.

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/report_abstracts/rr_abstracts/rra_718.asp

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/report_abstracts/rr_abstracts/rra_640.asp

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/report_abstracts/wp_abstracts/wpa_094.asp

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/report_abstracts/wp_abstracts/wpa_046.asp

The number of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in payment claimants with Alcoholism and Drug Abuse as main disabling condition by selected Local Authority - August and November 2010

	August 2010		November 2010	
	All	Alcoholism and Drug Abuse	All	Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
East Ayrshire	9,190	90	9,160	80
North Ayrshire	10,230	130	10,220	120
South Ayrshire	7,520	80	7,510	80

DLA notes

- 1) Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
- 2) DLA caseloads give the number of people with DLA in payment and so excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
- 3) A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. For example, a customer would not be awarded DLA on the basis of a diagnosis of drug/alcohol abuse the decision is based upon the care/supervision and difficulty getting around as a result of the substance dependency and any associated physical or psychological complications. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.
- 4) WPLS is the preferred source for analysis, except where more detailed information is only available via sample data. Generally sample data is used for analysis on DLA disabling condition as the information is more complete. However, in this case WPLS data has been used because sample data cannot provide robust estimates for small subgroups such as a medical condition breakdown within Local Authorities