



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

# Opinions and Lifestyle Survey data for the 2014 Fulfilling Potential Outcomes and Indicators Framework: Official Statistics

August 2015

# Executive summary

This is the second official statistics publication which reports on data from the disability module of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Opinions and Lifestyle Survey. The data is used to provide an annual update of the Fulfilling Potential Outcomes and Indicators Framework. It contains data from the 2014 survey which will be used to measure a number of indicators in the Outcomes and Indicators Framework, specifically on attitudes towards disabled people in the workplace, access to goods and services and transport, as well as on the themes of choice and control and relationships.

The data shows that:

- The majority of people think disabled people are the same as everybody else.
- Attitudes towards disabled people in the workplace from both employers and colleagues are generally positive.
- Approximately two-thirds of disabled people believe that they have choice and control over their lives (65%).
- In 2014, over three-quarters of disabled people (77%) did not report facing difficulties using transport.

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# 1 Introduction

This is the second official statistics publication on data from the disability module of the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey. The data is being published as part of the Fulfilling Potential Outcomes and Indicators Framework, which was designed to monitor progress towards the Fulfilling Potential disability strategy, on an annual basis. This report contains data from the 2014 survey.

## 2 Background

### 2.1 Fulfilling Potential Outcomes and Indicators Framework

In July 2013 the Government published 'Fulfilling Potential – Making it Happen'. The focus of Fulfilling Potential was on the need for innovative cross sector partnerships with disabled people and their organisations and promoting new ways of working to deliver meaningful outcomes. In 'Fulfilling Potential – Making it Happen' we launched the Fulfilling Potential Outcomes and Indicators Framework.

The Indicators Framework provides a basis for Government to measure progress towards the vision of disabled people living fulfilling lives. We have a number of indicators within the Framework, which give some indication of where progress is being made and where work needs to be done.

This framework was created to monitor progress across six high level strategic themes (Education, Employment, Income, Health and Wellbeing, Choice and Control, and Inclusive Communities) with a set of indicators being used to monitor progress across these themes.

The Opinions and Lifestyle Survey is used to measure our progress against some of the indicators in the framework, specifically in the Employment, Choice and Control, and Inclusive Communities themes.

The first progress report was published in September 2014 and is available from the following website:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/348867/Fulfilling\\_Potential\\_Outcomes\\_and\\_Indicators\\_Framework\\_Progress\\_Report\\_2014.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/348867/Fulfilling_Potential_Outcomes_and_Indicators_Framework_Progress_Report_2014.pdf)

The second progress report on the Outcomes and Indicators Framework (which will provide an update on all of the indicators) will be published later this year. Due to a change in how disability has been defined<sup>1</sup>, it is not yet possible to look at changes over time for a number of the indicators covered in the progress report, including those that use data from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey.

## 2.2 ONS 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. The themes covered in 2014 included:

- Impairment/disability
- Accessing services
- Employment
- Equality Act
- Media
- Paralympics
- Public view of disabled people
- Transportation difficulties
- Choice and Control
- Social Isolation and
- Housing

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<sup>1</sup> As a result of the change in legislation from the Disability Discrimination Act to the Equality Act.

## 3 Methodology

This data shows figures from the disability module of the 2014 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.

### **Definition of disability**

Disabled people are defined in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act, following the change in disability legislation from the Disability Discrimination Act to the Equality Act. See the data annex, for further details. The previous report, published in 2014, used the Disability Discrimination Act to define disabled people. This means that figures are not directly comparable with previous years, and so it will not yet be possible to examine changes over time.

### **Weighting**

We have used an individual weight on this data. The weighting system adjusts for some non-response bias by calibrating the Opinions and Lifestyle sample to ONS population totals.

# 4 Headline Statistics

## 4.1 Summary

- The data shows that 92 per cent of people think disabled people are the same as everybody else.
- Attitudes in the workplace are generally positive, with the vast majority of disabled and non-disabled people (around 9 out of 10) reporting that employers' and colleagues' attitudes towards disabled people in the workplace are supportive.
- Around two-thirds of disabled people (65%) believe they frequently have choice and control over their lives, compared to 79 per cent of non-disabled people.
- Over three-quarter of disabled people (77%) said that they did not experience difficulties in using transport in 2014<sup>2</sup>. Approximately one in ten had difficulties getting to rail, bus or coach station/stop and a similar proportion had difficulties getting on or off these forms of transport. Nine per cent had difficulties crossing roads or using pavements.
- Disabled people were also asked whether they had difficulties accessing goods and services. The most commonly reported difficulties were with shopping (20%) going to the cinema/theatre/concerts (15%) and going to pubs or restaurants (14%).

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<sup>2</sup> Those with either 'no difficulties' or the 'same difficulties as non-disabled people' have been included in this category, as additional adjustments would not be required for these people.



- Most disabled and non-disabled people said that they had between three and five acquaintances that they are close with (44 per cent respectively). This was the same for disabled and non-disabled people.

## 4.2 Data annex

All data tables can be found in the accompanying data annex.