

UK Disability Survey Research Report

June 2021



easy
read

Contents

Page

Introduction	3
Getting into buildings	5
Government services	7
Supporting independent living	9
Access to justice and rights	13
Changing how people think	15
Wellbeing	18
COVID-19	20
What would make your life better?	21



In this easy read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are [blue and underlined](#). These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

Introduction



The Government's Disability Unit asked disabled people what they thought about different things in a survey in January and February 2021.

In the survey, disabled people were asked what they thought about things like:

- being disabled
- housing
- jobs
- schools and colleges
- shopping
- leisure
- public services.





This report explains what people said.



The things that people said helped the Government write its National Disability Strategy.

Getting into buildings



About half of disabled people said they owned their own home.



About half of people said that their home was fine to live in independently.



Nearly half of people said it was difficult to get in and out of where they live.



About a third of people had had to make changes to their home, so they could live in it.



About a third of people had difficulty using public spaces most of the time. Mostly this was difficulty getting into shops, pubs, restaurants and cafés.



People talked about the difficulty in going on holiday or to the cinema or theatre.



Carers

Most carers said they own their own home.

Most carers said they live with the person they care for.



About half of people said that their home was suitable for their caring work.



Many carers had made changes to their home so it was okay for their caring work.

Government services



We only looked at answers from people who had used the services.



Most disabled people said they had difficulty accessing health services.



About half of people said they had difficulty accessing justice services - like the police and the courts.



Most people had difficulty accessing **benefits** and **pensions** services.



Benefits is money paid to some people by the government to help pay for the things they need to live.



A **pension** is a pot of money that you, your job and the government pay into while you are working. You can use it to live on after you retire.



Most people had difficulty accessing **culture**, sports and leisure services.

Culture includes theatres, cinemas, concerts, art galleries and events.



Most people had difficulty accessing social services.



About half of people had difficulty accessing tax services.



Carers

Carers had the same difficulties as disabled people in accessing these services.

Supporting independent living



About half of disabled people get support at least once a week. Mostly this is from friends and family. About 1 in every 5 people get support from a paid carer.



Of the people who get support from friends and family, about a quarter said it helped them to have more control of their lives.

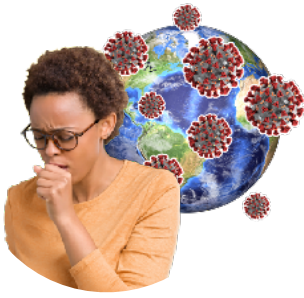


Of the people who had paid carers, nearly half said it helped them to have more control of their lives.



Paying for living

About 4 out of 10 people had difficulty paying their usual living expenses.



About half of people found this difficult during **COVID-19**.

COVID-19 is also called Coronavirus. It is an illness that is spreading around the world. It can affect your lungs and breathing.



Most of this group found it hard to apply for extra support from the government.



Working

About 4 out of every 10 people had a job.



Just over half of people with no job said they would like more help getting one.



Only a quarter of people said that they had a fair chance of getting a better job.



Carers

Most carers said that they didn't get paid for their caring work.

Most said that it was difficult, particularly during COVID-19.



About a third of carers found it difficult paying their usual living expenses before COVID-19. About half of carers had this difficulty during COVID-19.



Most of this group who had asked for help from the government had found it hard.



About half of carers had a job.

About half said that their boss would help them to be a good carer.



The general public

Of the general public, about 6 out of 10 people work with a disabled person.

Most people

Most people think that:

- disabled people are not able to live full, independent lives
- disabled people don't get enough money to meet their needs
- the government does not give disabled people enough support
- disabled people don't get enough chances to learn and go to college
- disabled people don't get a good chance to get a job
- companies should be more flexible
- companies are not making enough changes to the places of work to help disabled people
- disabled people are not given the chance to learn how to do more things while they are at work
- disabled people should be able to get better jobs like everyone else.



Access to justice and rights



Access to justice means being able to report things to the police and take people to court.



About half of disabled people feel unsafe in the area where they live.



More than half of disabled people said they have been treated badly by people because of their disability.



Of these only a third of people had reported it. Only a few were happy with what happened after they reported it.



Carers

About 4 out of every 10 carers worry about being insulted in the street when they are with the person they care for.



Most would speak up if the person was being treated unfairly.

Most would feel confident about reporting unfair behaviour towards a disabled person.



But only a few were happy with the results of reporting unfair behaviour.



The general public

Nearly all of the general public said they would speak up if they saw a disabled person being treated unfairly.



Most said they would feel confident to report unfair behaviour to the police.

Changing how people think



Disabled people

Most disabled people think that other people don't care if disabled people have to wait longer to get the things they need.



Half of disabled people who are looking for work think that people's attitudes are stopping them from getting a job.



People with disabilities said that people's attitudes stopped them from getting an education.



Carers

Most carers think that disabled people have to wait longer than everyone else to get what they need.



The general public

Most people in the general public would be happy to talk with a disabled person if they met them in street.



People said their main worries were:

- offending the disabled person by saying something wrong
- not being able to communicate with the disabled person.



Most people

Most people think that:

- other people don't understand the words 'disabled people'
- other people are not generally helpful to disabled people
- disabled people do as much as other people at work





- disabled people aren't valued at work



- other people don't treat disabled people fairly



- they would be happy to have a relationship with a disabled person



- disabled people should stand for elections.

Wellbeing



Wellbeing means feeling good about yourself.

Disabled people



About a third of disabled people said they hadn't been in contact with anyone they don't live with in the last week.



Nearly half of disabled people said they have close friends and family that can help them.



Most people said they would like to have more contact with people they don't live with.



Around half of disabled people say they often feel lonely.

Only about a fifth of disabled people said they feel able to do the things they want to do in the future.



Carers

Most carers said that their caring work stopped them from doing the things they wanted to do.



About a fifth of carers said they had friends who could help them.



About a third of carers had not been in contact with anyone they don't live within the last week.



Most carers would like more contact with family and friends.

About half of carers often feel lonely.



Most feel they won't be able to do the things they would have liked to have done because of their caring work.

COVID-19

Disabled people

During COVID-19, people found it harder to:

- manage their own care
- pay their usual living expenses.



COVID-19 made it harder for disabled people to contact family and friends.

Carers

Most carers found it difficult during COVID-19.



COVID-19 made it harder for most carers to keep in contact with people.

What would make your life better?



We asked people what would make their lives better.

People said:

- More money.
- More housing that is good for disabled people.
- Improving the way benefits are given so that it is easier to understand and kinder to people.
- Making buildings and public spaces more accessible to disabled people.
- Better mental health support and services.
- Making it easier to get health care and support for daily living.





- More Blue Badge parking spaces.
- Better rights for disabled people at work.
- Managers at work should understand more about disabled people.
- Better access to buses and trains.
- Improving how other people think about disabled people.
- Being able to take part in things more.
- Making schools better for disabled children so they can learn with other children.
- The government and local councils should understand disabled people more.