

Compendium

Life Opportunities Survey: Understanding Disability Wave Two, Part II

Comparison of how disabled and non-disabled people participate in a number of life areas. This report will present further comparisons between data collected at Wave One and Wave Two.

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Release date:
10 April 2014

Next release:
To be announced

Chapters in this compendium

1. [Interactive Graph – LOS Wave Two](#)
2. [What barriers do people face when accessing work, transport, education and training?](#)
3. [An Executive Summary](#)
4. [Chapter 1 - Introduction](#)
5. [Chapter 2 - Participation Restrictions](#)
6. [Chapter 3 - Work](#)
7. [Chapter 4 - Education and Training](#)
8. [Chapter 5 - Transport](#)
9. [Chapter 6 - Conclusion](#)

Interactive Graph – LOS Wave Two

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Table of contents

1. [What barriers do people face?](#)

1 . What barriers do people face?

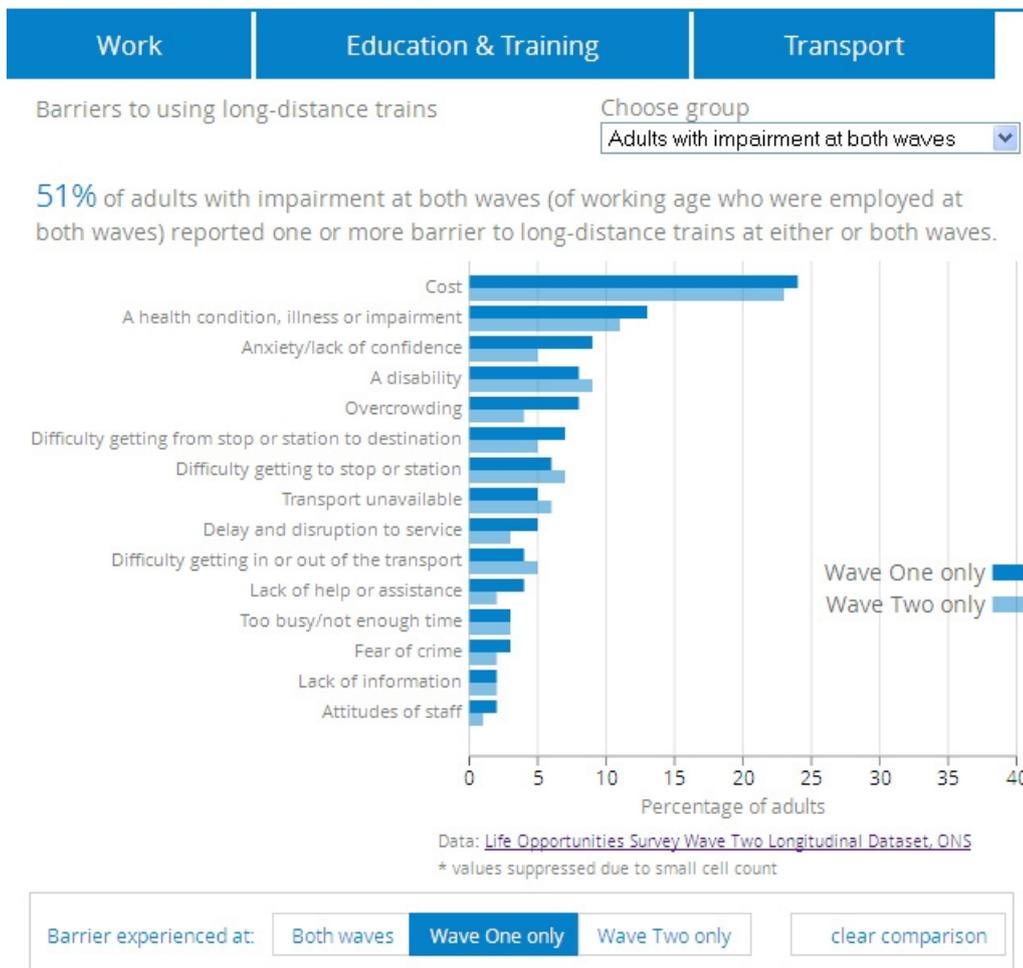
These charts show the barriers adults aged between 16 and 64 experienced to work, education and training, and transport. Details of all barrier types can be found in the [data section of this publication](#). See the [Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding Disability Wave Two, Part II](#) report for more information.

Select an analysis group from the 'Choose group' drop down, then click the 'Both Waves', 'Wave One Only', or 'Wave Two Only' button to see adults experience of barriers at different waves of the survey. Click the 'Compare waves' button if you want to compare the barriers experienced between waves.

Go to the [interactive version](#) of this graph.

Life Opportunities Survey

Wave One and Wave Two, Great Britain



More information on the [Life Opportunities Survey](#)
See more by the [ONS Data Visualisation Centre](#)

What barriers do people face when accessing work, transport, education and training?

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Table of contents

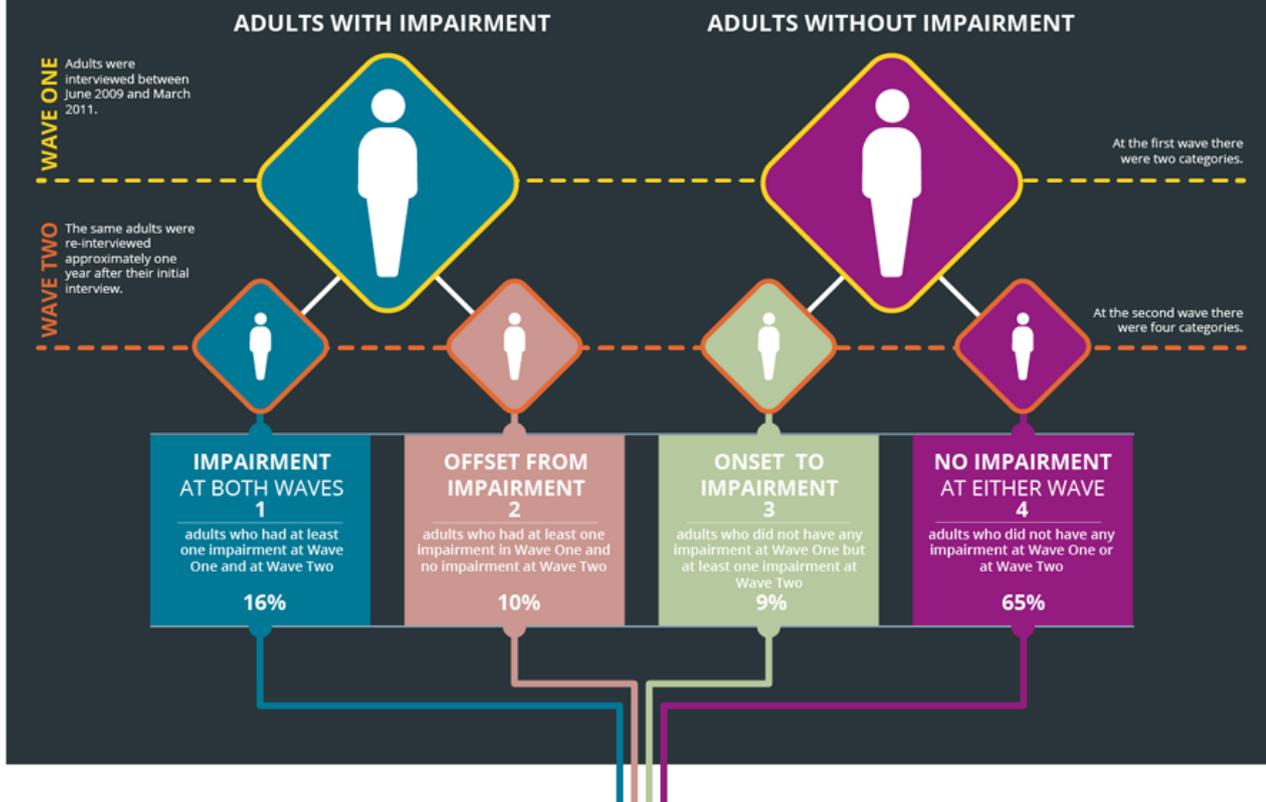
1. [Infographic exploring disability in Great Britain in terms of social barriers to participation that people experience across a range of 'life areas'](#)

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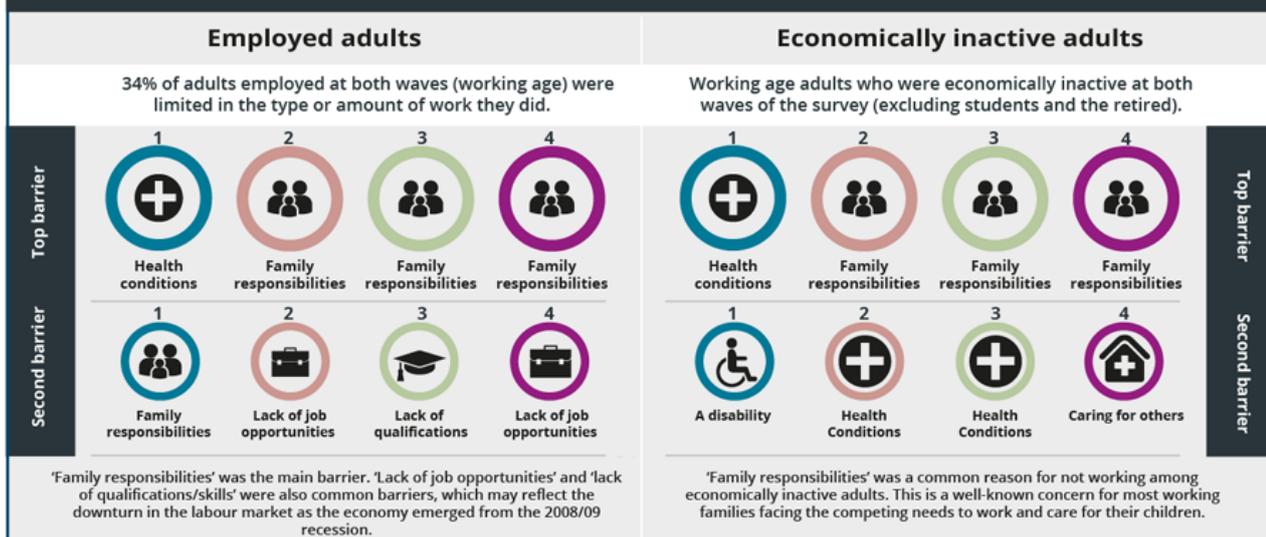
What barriers do people face when accessing work, transport, education and training?

Life Opportunities Survey, 2009-2012

The Life Opportunities Survey explores disability in Great Britain in terms of the social barriers to participation that people experience across a range of 'life areas', including work, education and training, and transport. Findings from the survey are used by the Department for Work and Pensions to understand more about barriers adults experience, and help inform the development of policy for disabled people in Great Britain. This infographic presents a summary of the top two barriers (for example, cost) experienced by working age adults surveyed, comparing the experience of adults with and without impairment (for example, loss of sight). Full details can be seen in the full report: **Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II**, which is available at www.ons.gov.uk.

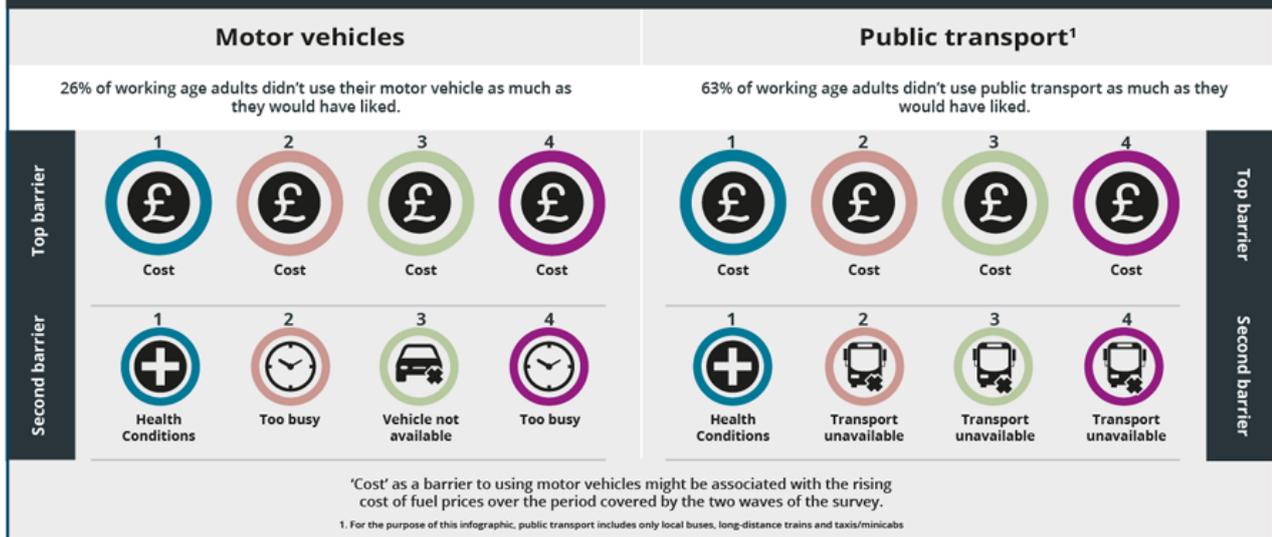


Top barriers to work

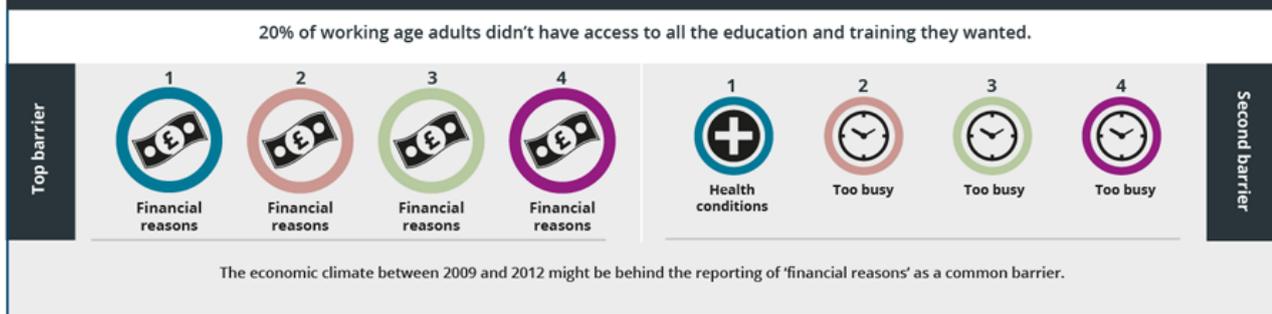


Top barriers to transport

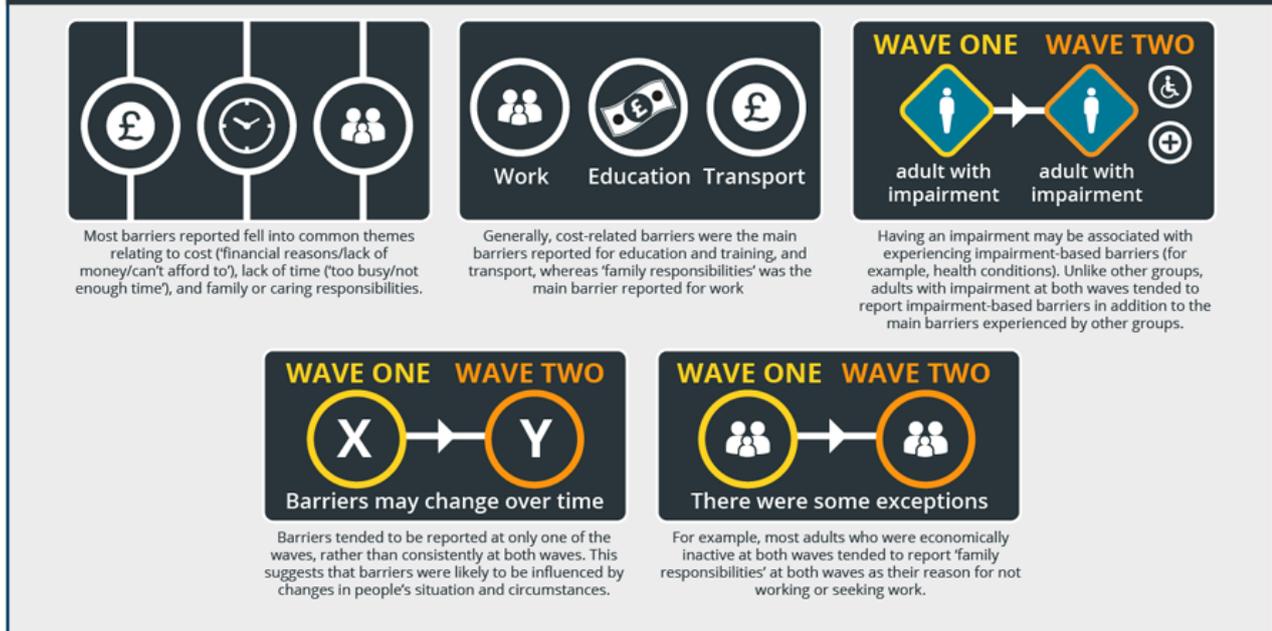
Top barriers to transport



Top barriers to education and training



Main findings



Explanation of barriers

- Health conditions**
A health condition, illness or impairment
- A disability**
Disability-related reasons
- Cost**
For example, cost of fuel, insurance, fares/tickets
- Lack of job opportunities**
Including not making use of existing qualifications in a job
- Financial reasons**
Lack of money/can't afford to
- Vehicle not available**
Vehicle not available when needed
- Caring for others**
For example, looking after older or disabled relatives/
- Family responsibilities**
For example, looking after children
- Too busy**
Too busy/not enough time
- Lack of qualifications**
Including lack of experience /skills
- Transport unavailable**
Local buses, long-distance trains and taxis/minicabs

The Life Opportunities Survey explores disability in Great Britain in terms of the social barriers to participation that people experience across a range of 'life areas', including work, education and training, and transport. Findings from the survey are used by the Department for Work and Pensions to understand more about barriers adults experience, and help inform the development of policy for disabled people in Great Britain. This infographic presents a summary of the top two barriers (for example, cost) experienced by working age adults surveyed, comparing the experience of Adults with and without impairing (for example, loss of sight). Full details can be seen in the full [Life Opportunities Survey - understanding disability Wave Two Part II](#) report.

Compendium

An Executive Summary

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Release date:
10 April 2014

Next release:
To be announced

Table of contents

1. [Life Opportunities Survey](#)
2. [What does the report examine?](#)
3. [Restrictions to Participating in Areas of Life](#)
4. [Barriers to accessing work](#)
5. [Barriers to Accessing Education and Training](#)
6. [Barriers to Accessing Transport](#)
7. [Conclusions](#)
8. [Background notes](#)

1 . Life Opportunities Survey

The Life Opportunities Survey (LOS) is a large scale longitudinal survey of disability in Great Britain. It is the first major social survey in Great Britain to explore disability in terms of the social barriers to participation that people experience. The LOS examines the experiences of people with and without impairments across a range of 'life areas', including education and training, employment, transport, leisure, social and cultural activities, and social contact.

The survey is wholly funded by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and is carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The LOS is a longitudinal survey in that it follows respondents over time and collects information on changes in the respondents' situations and experiences. Respondents were interviewed for the first time at Wave One (June 2009 – March 2011), and for the second time at Wave Two (June 2010 – March 2012). Each wave of the survey spans two years and respondents are followed up approximately one year after their initial interview.

The LOS follows the [social model of disability](#) and does not equate having an impairment with being disabled. People may have impairment(s) without being limited in their activities, and therefore they may not consider themselves as disabled.

In this report, an adult is defined as having an impairment if they indicated that:

- they experience moderate, severe or complete difficulty within at least one area of physical or mental functioning
- certain activities are limited in any way as a result. 'Activities' refer to different areas of physical or mental functioning, such as walking, climbing stairs or reading a newspaper

For further background information on the survey, its development and definitions, please see [Chapter 1: Introduction](#).

2 . What does the report examine?

This report examines how adults were restricted in participating in different life areas and the barriers they experienced in the two waves of the LOS. In particular, the focus is on whether the experience of restriction changed between Wave One and Wave Two, and whether some barriers were reported consistently across the two waves, or reported at only one of the waves. The analyses on barriers will concentrate on three life areas – work, education and training, and transport.

The report will look at these topics for four groups of adults:

1. Adults with impairment at both waves: adults who had at least one impairment at Wave One and at Wave Two
2. Offset adults: adults who had at least one impairment at Wave One but no impairments at Wave Two
3. Onset-acquired adults: adults who did not have any impairment at Wave One but had at least one impairment at Wave Two
4. Adults without impairment at both waves: adults who did not have any impairment at Wave One or at Wave Two

3 . Restrictions to Participating in Areas of Life

An adult is considered to be restricted in participating in a life area if he/she experiences at least one barrier in that area. Chapter 2 looks at participation restriction for the four groups of adults aged 16 and over, for all eight life areas considered on the LOS.

Key findings

- Having an impairment appeared to be associated with experiencing [participation restriction](#) in various [life areas](#)
- Adults with impairment at both waves were most likely to have a participation restriction in the areas of work, economic life¹, transport, and accessibility outside the home
- Offset adults (who had impairment at Wave One but no longer at Wave Two) were generally less likely to have participation restrictions at Wave Two than at Wave One
- In contrast, onset-acquired adults (who had acquired an impairment at Wave Two) were generally more likely to have participation restrictions at Wave Two than at Wave One
- Most adults, regardless of their impairment status, had a participation restriction in at least one life area at both waves, with transport and leisure being the two areas where a participation restriction was most widely experienced

Notes for restrictions to participating in areas of life

1. Economic life refers to the household's ability to pay bills

4 . Barriers to accessing work

These analyses focused on the barriers to work, as reported by working age (16 to 64) adults who were employed at both waves, or who were economically inactive (not working and not seeking work) at both waves¹. For adults in employment, these barriers limit the type or amount of work they do, whereas for economically inactive adults, the barriers are reasons why they do not do paid work or choose not to look for work.

Key findings

- 'Family responsibilities', 'lack of job opportunities' and 'lack of qualifications/experience/skills' were common barriers at work reported by adults employed at both waves
- Employed adults with impairment at both waves were more likely to have a participation restriction to work than employed adults without impairment at both waves
- Having an impairment may be associated with experiencing impairment-based barriers at work. 'A health condition, illness or impairment' was the top barrier for adults with impairment at both waves, and was a barrier reported by offset adults at Wave One, and by onset-acquired adults at Wave Two
- For adults who were economically inactive at both waves, 'family responsibilities' was a reason commonly reported for not working. Impairment and disability-related reasons were also reported by adults with impairment at both waves, offset and onset-acquired adults

- Most adults who were employed at both waves did not report any enablers which helped them at work. Similarly, most adults who were economically inactive at both waves did not report any enablers which they needed to be able to work
- When reported, the most common enablers were 'modified hours or days or reduced work hours' and 'tax credits'². These enablers might have been reported for various reasons – as ways to cope with family or caring responsibilities, or to manage a health condition, illness or impairment, or to supplement low income

Notes for barriers to accessing work

1. Due to insufficient sample size, it was not possible to analyse adults who were unemployed at both waves
2. A person may qualify for a [tax credit](#) if he/she works but earns low wages

5 . Barriers to Accessing Education and Training

These analyses focused on barriers to education and training, as reported by working age (16 to 64) adults.

Key findings

- The majority of adults did not experience participation restriction to education and training in either wave
- Adults with impairment at both waves were twice as likely to have a participation restriction to education and training in at least one wave compared with adults without impairment at both waves
- 'Financial reasons'¹ was the most commonly reported barrier to education and training, regardless of an adult's impairment status.
- 'Too busy/not enough time' was the second-most common barrier reported for offset adults, onset-acquired adults and adults without impairment at both waves
- For adults with impairment at both waves there is some evidence from the LOS data that they perceive their impairment to have affected their ability to participate in education and training more than other barriers
- There was no apparent relationship between the onset/offset of impairments and impairment-based barriers to education and training

Notes for Barriers to Accessing Education and Training

1. 'Financial reasons' could relate to a variety of things including: course fees; cost of learning resources; cost involved in time away from work; or cost of childcare to enable attendance on a course

6 . Barriers to Accessing Transport

These analyses focused on barriers to transport, as reported by working age (16 to 64) adults.

Key findings

- 'Cost' was the most common barrier to transport in all transport types¹ regardless of an adult's impairment status. The proportion reporting 'cost' as a barrier was highest for taxis/minicabs and lowest for local buses
- A higher percentage of adults reported 'cost' as a barrier to using motor vehicles in Wave Two only than in Wave One only. This finding was not seen for other transport types and coincided with a rise in the cost of fuel and car insurance²
- For adults with impairment at both waves there is evidence that some perceived their impairment to have affected their ability to access all four transport types. This was not the case for the other analysis groups
- Specific barrier types tended to be reported by adults at either Wave One only or Wave Two only, rather than at both waves. This suggests that barriers are transient in most cases, rather than fixed

Notes for Barriers to Accessing Transport

1. The four transport types included in this chapter are: motor vehicles, local buses, long-distance trains and taxis/minicabs
2. Data source: [Consumer Price Indices 2014](#) Office for National Statistics

7 . Conclusions

What can we say about these findings?

This report showed that being restricted to participating fully in various areas of life is a common experience shared by nearly all adults in Great Britain. Transport and leisure activities were the two areas where restriction was most commonly reported.

There were recurring themes underlying the types of barriers reported by adults – with cost-related reasons being more relevant in the area of education and training, and transport; and 'family responsibilities' the main barrier in the area of work. Other barriers reported also reflected the wider societal and economic climate of the period covered by the LOS. For example, 'lack of job opportunities' might have been reported as a barrier to work because of the extent of unemployment in the UK labour market at the time. 'Cost' might have been reported as a barrier to using motor vehicle as a result of rising fuel and insurance prices ¹.

This report showed evidence of an association between impairment and restriction to participation. Adults with impairment at both waves experienced restriction to participation to a greater extent than other groups, and were the only group who regularly reported an impairment-based barrier in work, education and training, and transport.

This report also highlighted the dynamic nature of barriers. Most barriers were reported at either Wave One only or Wave Two only, rather than consistently at both waves. This finding emphasises how barriers are likely to be influenced by changes in personal circumstances, as well as external factors that affect society as a whole.

The relationship between impairment and barriers is complex – this is because people's experiences of impairment and barriers are both diverse and liable to change over time for a variety of reasons.

Notes for conclusions

1. Data source: [Consumer Price Indices January 2014](#) Office for National Statistics

8. Background notes

1. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available by visiting www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html or from the Media Relations Office email: media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk.

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Chapter 1 - Introduction

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Release date:
10 April 2014

Next release:
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Table of contents

1. [Introduction](#)
2. [Background of the Life Opportunities Survey](#)
3. [Social model of disability](#)
4. [Brief outline of the LOS methodology](#)
5. [Wave Two Part II analyses](#)
6. [Why is it important to study barriers to participation to understand disability?](#)
7. [Interpreting survey results](#)
8. [Strengths and weaknesses](#)
9. [Availability of detailed and unpublished data](#)
10. [List of contributors](#)
11. [Reporting conventions](#)
12. [Background notes](#)

1 . Introduction

Introduction

This report presents further results based on the longitudinal findings from Wave One and Two of the Life Opportunities Survey (LOS). Initial findings were published in the [Part I Report](#).

2 . Background of the Life Opportunities Survey

The Life Opportunities Survey (LOS) is a large-scale longitudinal survey¹ of disability in Great Britain and it is the first major national social survey which explores disability in terms of the barriers to participation that people experience. Prior to the development of the LOS, the last major survey on disability conducted in Great Britain had been the Family Resources Survey disability follow-up in 1996/97, and before that was the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS) national surveys of disability carried out during 1985-88. In 2005, the [Department for Work and Pensions](#) (DWP) carried out a feasibility study² which recommended a new survey dedicated to meet the evidence needs of the policy for disabled people in Great Britain. Subsequently, the [Office for Disability Issues](#) (ODI) (part of the DWP) commissioned the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to develop the LOS.

The survey is wholly funded by the DWP and is carried out by the ONS. Each wave of the survey spans two years and respondents in Wave Two have been followed up approximately one year after their initial interview. Wave One of the LOS took place between June 2009 and March 2011; Wave Two began in June 2010 and finished in March 2012.

3 . Social model of disability

According to the social model, disability is viewed as the disadvantage or restriction of activity and participation caused by aspects of society which take little or no account of the needs of people with impairment. Therefore, in line with the social model, the LOS assesses the level of participation of people with impairment and the barriers to participation they face.

Impairments relate to the loss of physiological and psychological functions of the body such as loss of sight, hearing, mobility or learning capacity and should be distinguished from medical conditions or loss of bodily structure. For example, glaucoma is a medical condition whereas loss of vision is the impairment it causes. Activity limitations are restrictions an individual may have in executing physical or mental tasks or actions as a result of their impairment, for example, being unable to read newsprint at arm's length without glasses or other aids and adaptations.

The LOS collects self-reported data on impairment; this is dependent upon the respondent's perception of the limitations and severity of the impairment.

In this report, an adult is defined as having an impairment if they indicated that:

- they experience either moderate, severe or complete difficulty within at least one area of physical or mental functioning, and
- certain activities are limited in any way as a result. 'Activities' refer to different areas of physical or mental functioning, such as walking, climbing stairs or reading a newspaper.

The LOS collects information about all impairments that a respondent may have (it is possible for a respondent to report more than one impairment) and respondents are asked to self-classify their impairment according to a list of 14 impairment types (sight, hearing, speaking, mobility, dexterity, long-term pain, chronic health condition, breathing, learning, intellectual impairment, behavioural, memory, mental health condition, and 'other'). At Waves One and Two of the survey respondents were not asked to specify the underlying condition for each impairment type, however respondents who reported a particular impairment were asked the level and frequency of the limitation caused by the impairment. Questions about long-term health conditions were also included.

This method of classifying impairment status is compatible with the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) developed by the [World Health Organisation](#) (WHO).

The survey also collects information on:

- participation in different life areas,
- the barriers that people face to participating in these life areas, and
- how levels of participation and barriers to participation change over time.

Respondents are asked questions on a broad range of topics including employment, education and training, transport, leisure, social and cultural activities, the accessibility of buildings and use of public services. They are also asked questions about social care, experiences of discrimination and crime and the financial situation of the household.

The LOS asks questions about people's experience of barriers in the following eight life areas:

- education and training,
- work,
- economic life (the household's ability to make ends meet),
- transport,
- leisure activities,
- accessibility in the home,
- accessibility outside the home, and
- social contact.

An adult has a participation restriction if they experience at least one barrier to taking part in at least one of the eight life areas.

Examples of barriers include: discrimination, the attitudes of other people, inaccessible buildings, public transport and information, lack of money, not having anyone to meet or speak to, as well as lack of support, equipment and adjustments.

Further information on the development of the survey, including details on the consultation with a reference group of disabled people and qualitative testing of the survey, can be found in the Wave One Interim Report ³.

Notes for background of the Life Opportunities Survey

1. A survey where respondents are regularly re-interviewed after a set interval (e.g. one year)
2. [Purdon et al](#) (2005) Meeting DWP's long-term information needs on disability: A feasibility study
3. [Wave One Interim Report](#)

4 . Brief outline of the LOS methodology

The following section of the report contains a brief summary of how respondents are followed up from Wave One to Wave Two, and how they are classified into groups for the purpose of longitudinal analysis.

Follow-up of respondents from Wave One to Wave Two

Each respondent's impairment status at Wave One was used to assign them to one of three different groups which determined how they were followed up at Wave Two:

1. Adults with at least one impairment

This group included all adults who reported at least one impairment at Wave One (29%¹). These adults, as well as all adult members of their households, were interviewed in person at Wave Two.

2. Control

Of the 71% of adults who did not report having an impairment at Wave One, a subset was selected to form a 'control' group. The adults in this group were chosen to provide a comparison group that is similar to the adults with at least one impairment on several key characteristics associated with impairment – sex, age, region of residence, and the urban/rural classification of residence. The size of the control group was designed to be half that of the group of adults with at least one impairment, that is for the Wave Two sample there were two adults with impairment for every one person in the control group. All of the adults in the control group, as well as all adult members of their households, were interviewed in person at Wave Two.

3. Onset-screening

All of the remaining adults who did not have an impairment at Wave One and who were not selected for the control group were assigned to the 'onset screening group'. These adults were not interviewed in person at Wave Two, unless they or an adult member of their household had acquired an impairment between Wave One and Wave Two. A brief telephone interview was conducted with the onset-screening group between Wave One and Wave Two in order to establish if anyone in their household had acquired an impairment.

For more information on the composition of the three follow-up groups, see the Wave Two Interim Technical Report².

Development of the control group for analysis

Although sub-sampling to identify adults for follow up at Wave Two was carried out at the individual level, interviews were conducted at the household level to simplify fieldwork procedures. Therefore, household members living with a respondent selected for follow up at Wave Two were also given a face to face interview. To utilise all the data collected and to make the control group represent the population of people who are not impaired, the co-residents were included in the control group for analysis purposes. This group is referred to as 'adults without impairment at both waves' in this report, and comprises of all adults who:

- were chosen to be in the 'control' group and did not have an impairment at Wave Two,
- did not have an impairment at Wave One and Wave Two but were living in the same household as an adult chosen to be in the 'control' group, or
- did not have an impairment at Wave One and Wave Two but were living in the same household as an adult who had at least one impairment at Wave One, or in the same household as an adult who was identified as onset-acquired from the screener exercise.

For more information on the development of the use of the 'control' group, see [Annex 1 \(136.9 Kb Pdf\)](#), which provides a summary of the development of the Wave Two weights.

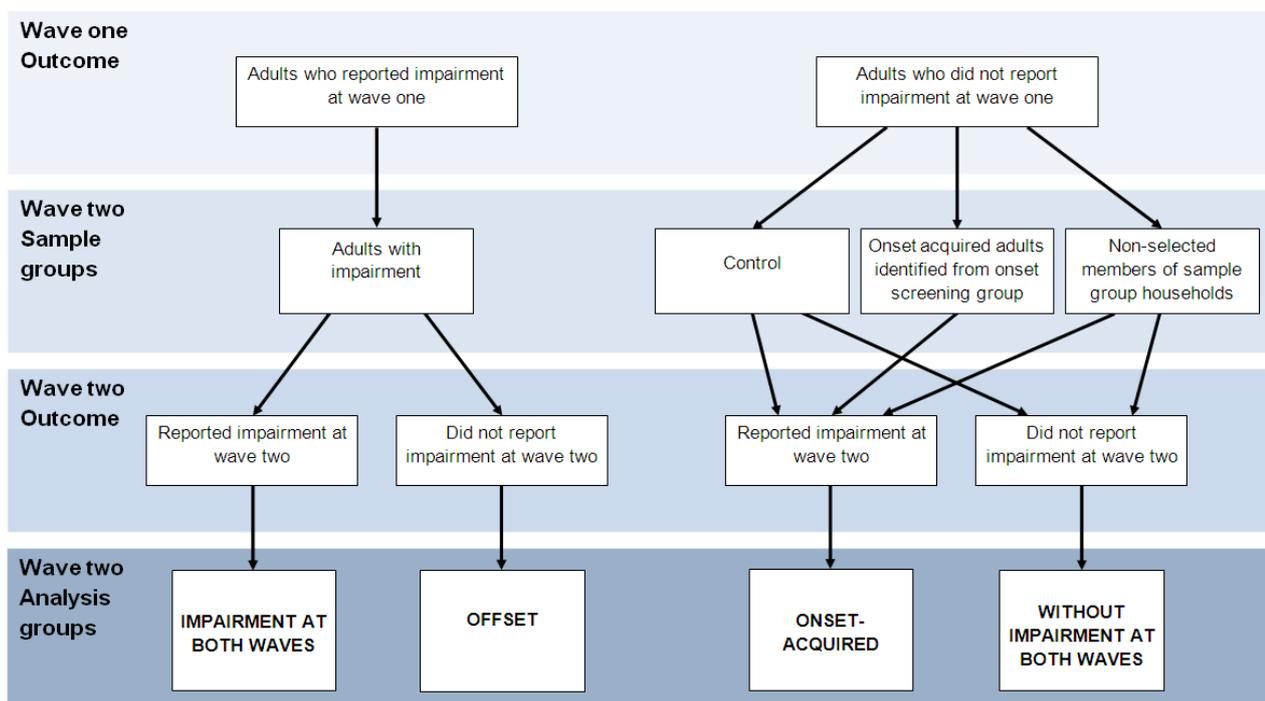
Classification of individuals for Wave Two longitudinal analysis

Diagram 1 shows how adults have been classified for the longitudinal analysis. The classification takes into account impairment status at both Wave One and Wave Two. Figure 1 also illustrates how adults who did not report any impairment at either Wave One or Wave Two flow through the survey.

The following four groups are featured in the longitudinal analyses of this report:

1. adults who had at least one impairment at Wave One and at Wave Two are 'adults with impairment at both waves',
2. adults who had at least one impairment at Wave One but no impairments at Wave Two are 'offset adults',
3. adults who did not have any impairment at Wave One but had at least one impairment at Wave Two are 'onset-acquired adults', and
4. adults who did not have any impairment at Wave One or at Wave Two are 'adults without impairment at both waves'.

Diagram 1.1, Classification of adults for LOS wave two longitudinal analysis



Notes for brief outline of the LOS methodology

1. [Life Opportunities Survey Wave one results, 2009/11](#) (pp. 44)
2. [Figure 1 of the Wave Two Interim Technical Report](#)

5 . Wave Two Part II analyses

Outline of chapters

The main focus of this report is to explore how adults are restricted in taking part in different areas of their life and the specific barriers they encounter. The data analysed for the report came from respondents who were interviewed in both Wave One and Wave Two of the LOS and focuses on the longitudinal aspect of the data. Chapter 2 explores whether adults¹ are restricted in each of the eight LOS life areas. Chapters 3 to 5 describe specific barriers reported for the life areas of work, education and training, and transport for adults of working age, respectively². Change in adults' experience of participation restriction and barriers between Wave One and Wave Two is considered. Finally, Chapter 6 gives a summary of the general findings of the report.

As identified above, analysis of barriers focuses on three of the eight LOS life areas- work, education and training, and transport. The topics were chosen to focus on the policy priority to understand more about barriers adults experience to work, and topics related to work. Therefore the analysis in Chapters 3 to 5 focuses on adults of working age (aged 16 to 64).

The data have been weighted to provide estimates for the general population (see [Annex 1 \(136.9 Kb Pdf\)](#) which provides a summary of the development of the Wave Two weights).

Longitudinal analysis groups

Throughout the report comparisons are made between the four groups of adults as described in section 1.2 - adults with impairment at both waves, offset adults, onset-acquired adults, and adults without impairment at both waves. The four groups reflect the diversity of impairment status, in that impairment status may be stable, or may change over time. A person may have impairments at both waves or no impairment at both waves, or they may no longer have impairments or they may acquire an impairment at Wave Two.

Participation restriction and barriers

An adult has a participation restriction in a life area if they experience at least one barrier in that area. For example, in education and training, respondents were asked if they had access to all the learning opportunities that they wanted³. If they answered 'no', they were then asked to specify the barrier(s) experienced. For education and training, these included:

- 'financial reasons (lack of money/can't afford to)',
- 'too busy/not enough time'
- 'lack of information'
- 'no learning opportunities available'
- 'a health condition, illness or impairment'

For another life area, the barriers reported may be different. For example, 'lack of job opportunities' is a barrier applicable to work, whereas 'difficulty getting to stop or station' is a barrier applicable to the use of public transport such as local buses and long distance trains.

The barriers reported by adults may change over time. For each life area it is possible to see if a particular barrier was:

1. reported at both waves
2. reported at Wave One only
3. reported at Wave Two only
4. not reported at either wave

The analysis of barriers in Chapters 3 to 5 includes working age adults, who experienced a participation restriction to the specific life area being analysed at any point in the survey. For these adults the types of barriers that were reported at both waves or at either wave (groups i, ii, and iii above) will be examined by group.

Analysis of barriers in Chapters 3 to 5 is presented in tables showing the top four barriers that were reported by each group; broken down by whether the specific barriers were reported at both waves or at one wave of the survey⁴. The analysis has been approached in this way in order to explore the types of barriers that are reported at both waves (i.e. those that are persistent), compared to those that are reported at one wave only (i.e. those that are transient).

The top four barriers form the focus of our analysis given the small number of respondents selecting other barrier types. The full range of barrier types reported in the life areas of work, education and training, and transport, can be seen in the [reference tables](#) provided.

The commentary provides descriptive comparisons of the top four barriers, drawing high level conclusions about the relationships between impairment status, participation restriction, and how this changes over time. Direct comparisons are not made of the percentage of adults experiencing specific types of barriers. This approach was taken because of the small sample sizes that result when splitting the dataset into the subsets as described above (i.e. longitudinal analysis group, and barriers experienced across waves of the survey within the three topic areas).

Enablers

In the life area of work, LOS respondents were also asked to report 'enablers' - measures that helped them at work, or would help them to be able to work. Chapter 3 includes the types of enablers that were reported by employed and economically inactive adults for each of the longitudinal analysis groups. Due to insufficient sample size, it is not possible to analyse adults who were unemployed at both waves⁵.

Within the LOS questionnaire employed adults were asked to select from a list of enablers, anything that helped them at work. Enablers included 'Modified hours or days or reduced hours', 'modified duties', and 'equipment to help with a health condition or disability'⁶. From the same list, economically inactive adults were asked if they needed any of the enablers to be able to work.

Notes for Wave Two Part II analyses

1. All adults aged 16 and over are included in the analysis of participation restriction
2. Adults aged 16 to 64 are included in the barriers analysis

3. [LOS questionnaire](#) questions 126 and 127
4. The rankings are calculated based on the percentage of adults who reported each particular barrier at both waves, at Wave One only, or at Wave Two only, out of those adults from that particular group who had a participation restriction at either or both waves. For barrier tables 'other reasons' and suppressed values have been excluded from the ranking
5. [Chapter 2](#) provides some details on the effect of change in economic activity status on barriers reported
6. [Question 143 which was administered to employed adults, and question 167 for economically inactive adults in the LOS questionnaire](#)

6 . Why is it important to study barriers to participation to understand disability?

The results from the longitudinal analysis of the LOS will be used to inform a new understanding of the dynamic nature of the disabled population and of the barriers faced by people with impairment. As identified in external research, it is important to understand more about the dynamic nature of disability and the barriers people with impairments face¹, this will be used to inform policy development in particular on the support people need during onset of impairment.

As well as looking at barriers, wave 3 of the LOS will also collect information on the key enablers to removing barriers. This will inform the development of the approach the Government will take in helping disabled people to fulfil their potential and have the opportunity to play a full role in society.

The LOS Wave Three questionnaire will include questions designed to collect information about onset and offset of impairment. In particular additional questions will be asked to provide understanding of any enablers that may have resulted in the removal of barriers to participation in particular life areas. It is hoped the additional information will also allow further understanding of survey error, in particular the extent of mis-reporting of changes in experience of participation restriction.

Notes for why is it important to study barriers to participation to understand disability?

1. [The Center on Human Policy, Law, and Disability Studies](#)
[Journal of Accessibility and Design for All](#)

7 . Interpreting survey results

Units, presentation and accuracy

Detailed definitions of the terms and categories used in this report are provided in the [Glossary](#) at the end of the report.

All estimates presented in the tables and charts have been analysed using longitudinal weights so that they have been adjusted for non-response, differential sampling probabilities of selection at Wave One, and loss to follow-up at Wave Two (more information on weighting can be found in [Annex 1 \(136.9 Kb Pdf\)](#)).

Calculating percentages

Percentages reported throughout the document have been calculated using population estimates rounded to integers. When calculating percentages, the values of residual categories such as 'no answer' or 'don't know' have been excluded from the denominator.

Sample attrition, household and individual response rates

The response rate for LOS Wave Two can be calculated at both household and individual level. The LOS Wave Two achieved a household level response rate of 77%. In this case responding households were those in which information was collected in person or by proxy for all adults. The survey achieved an individual response rate of 74%, among adults who were eligible for a face-to-face interview.

For longitudinal surveys, the sample is subject to attrition moving from one wave to the next. For the LOS, a subset of the original sample at Wave One were not contactable, did not respond, or refused further participation at Wave Two. More information on sample attrition and the household and individual response rates can be found in [Annex 3 of the Part I report \(136.9 Kb Pdf\)](#).

Statistical significance

In Chapter 2, unless otherwise stated, changes and differences mentioned in the text have been found to be statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

The analysis of the types of barriers adults experienced (presented in Chapters 3 to 5) are presented as a qualitative description comparing the top four barriers. Given direct comparisons of the percentage of adults experiencing specific types of barriers are not made, no significance testing has been carried out on the findings reported in these chapters.

8 . Strengths and weaknesses

Specific strengths of using the LOS

- LOS is a longitudinal survey that has been designed to follow respondents over time to provide an insight and understanding into the transient nature of impairment. A key component of the survey design is the ability to compare the experience of barriers to participation between people with impairment and those without impairment over time to assess the equality in access in different life areas. The formation, at Wave Two, of a control group from within the respondents who did not have any impairments at Wave One, will allow experiences to be compared between the two groups over time
- As the first longitudinal survey of its kind, the data collected provides a unique and rich source of data for use by analysts. Both to understanding more about the transitions into and out of impairment, as well as different types and severity of impairment experienced by adults in Great Britain
- Survey design. The LOS uses an unclustered sample designed to produce efficient estimates for the sample size and Great Britain. The unclustered sample allows greater precision to be achieved in LOS outputs because it helps to make the sample more representative of all groups in society¹
- The size of the Wave One sample was sufficient to accommodate for attrition over time. As a result, at Wave Two, the sample remains of a sufficient size to allow for comparisons and analysis to be conducted among subgroups of the sample

Specific weaknesses of using the LOS

- Potential under or over reporting of impairment. The LOS collects self-reported impairment data which is dependent upon the respondent's perception of the limitations and severity of the impairment at the time of the interview. A self-reporting measure of this kind is prone to both over and under reporting as the perception of the existence and effect of impairment is dependent upon each respondent's own personal opinion on the day they are interviewed
- One consequence of this is that respondent's perception of the impairment may differ over time causing transitions to be recorded that may or may not be real. For example, the LOS definition of impairment is dependent upon the respondent reporting more than 'mild' difficulty. If at Wave One they report 'moderate' difficulty they will be classed as having an impairment according to the LOS definition. However, if at Wave Two we assume that there has been no change in the impairment and the respondent reports 'mild' difficulty, LOS will no longer class them as having an impairment. Using this example, the respondent will be treated as having offset from impairment at Wave Two
- Cross-sectional weights are not available on the LOS Wave Two dataset and therefore estimates of impairment prevalence cannot be calculated. Overall estimates of disability prevalence are available from the Family Resources Survey²

The LOS is a sample survey and so is subject to weaknesses which also exist for other surveys, including:

- Non-sampling error. Estimates from all sample surveys, including those derived from the LOS data, will contain a degree of uncertainty due to non-sampling and sampling error. Non-sampling error generally arises from errors in the collection, measurement and processing of the data³. To minimise non-sampling error the LOS questionnaire was administered using computer assisted interviewing (CAI), which ensured that the questionnaire routing was followed correctly during the interview and inconsistencies and potential collection errors were able to be queried, and where appropriate, corrected during the interview⁴. Again, to minimise non-sampling error, as a result of errors arising from data collection, all ONS interviewers received both generic interviewer training and specific LOS training prior to working on the LOS. The LOS Wave One Technical Report provides further information about the data collection and processing of the data⁵
- Sampling error. This relates to the fact that the sample chosen is only one of a large number of samples which could have been chosen. It follows then that any estimate derived from the sample is only one of a large number of estimates which could have been made. For users of survey data, the precision of the estimate is of interest, that is, how much the estimate would vary when different samples are drawn⁶. In general, the larger the sample size from which the estimate is derived, the more precise, or robust, is the estimate
- Non-response and missing information. The information from a household which co-operates in the survey may be incomplete. This can be due to one of the following reasons: i) a partial refusal (e.g. to income); ii) because information was collected by proxy, therefore certain questions were omitted from the interview; or iii) a particular item was missed because of a lack of understanding or an error
- Survey coverage. The LOS Wave One sample was designed to cover private households in Great Britain. Therefore individuals in care or retirement homes, for example, will not be included. This means that figures relating to the severely disabled and the most elderly individuals may not be representative of the Great Britain population, as many will have moved into homes where they can receive more frequent help
- The survey at Wave Two follows individuals, and their households, and remains a private household survey. This means that any respondents who have moved into institutions (care or retirement homes, prison, etc) between Waves One and Two were not followed at Wave Two and were recorded as not eligible to participate in the survey
- The LOS Wave Two set sample comprised only of households of individuals who had participated at Wave One and did not include any new households. This approach does not allow the sample to be refreshed to include any new population sub-groups that may have entered the country since the sample was drawn for Wave One. However, any adult or child who had entered a LOS household since the Wave One interview are included as new survey entrants at Wave Two

- Survey bias. Although work has been undertaken to try to ensure that the figures that have been collected are valid and that adjustments are made for attrition, survey bias may still remain. This may be partly due to misreporting of certain data items and sampling error, but also may reflect non-response biases not controlled for in the weighting factors. Efforts are continually being made to minimise these problems, for example through greater reliance on documentary evidence at the interview and maintaining response rates

Notes for Strengths and weaknesses

1. [LOS Wave One Technical Report 2009/11](#) p.5 Sampling Methodology
2. [Chapter four of the Family Resources Survey 2011/12 report](#)
3. Information on [non-sampling errors](#) (p.200)
4. [Wave One Technical Report 2009-11 \(2.54 Mb Pdf\)](#) (p.13)
5. [Wave One Technical Report 2009-11 \(2.54 Mb Pdf\)](#) (p.13)
6. The precision of the estimate can be gauged by its confidence interval – the range of values within which the population parameter is estimated to lie. The narrower the interval, the more precise is the estimate.

9 . Availability of detailed and unpublished data

A summary of this report is available in alternative formats such as Large Print, Braille, Audio or Easy Read. The [Easy Read version \(0.99 Mb Pdf\)](#) is available via the ONS website. Large Print and Braille copies are available from the ONS LOS team. The Audio version is available via the DWP website¹. Contact the LOS team by email LOS@ons.gsi.gov.uk or by telephoning +44 (0) 1633 455296.

The LOS Wave Two datasets will be made publicly available in 2014, via the UK Data Archive².

Notes for availability of detailed and unpublished data

1. [Audio version of the report summary](#)
2. [UK Data Archive](#)

10 . List of contributors

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11 . Reporting conventions

General conventions

- Row, column or table percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding
- All reported sample sizes are rounded independently to the nearest ten. For this reason, sample sizes for totals may not equal the sum of sample sizes for components

Symbols used in tables

.. Figure suppressed due to small cell count.

n/a Not applicable.

0 Less than 0.5%, including none.

[] Figures should be used with extra caution because they are based on fewer than 30 reporting individuals.

12. Background notes

1. All tables contain figures based on sample estimates that have been weighted so that they apply to the overall population. This involves the use of a set of adjustment (or grossing) factors that attempt to correct for differential attrition between Wave One and Wave Two. The unweighted sample counts, shown in the tables as 'sample size=100%', therefore can help users to judge the robustness of the information (the larger the sample size the more robust the relevant estimate). Note that the unweighted sample counts have been rounded to the nearest 10. All figures in this report have been rounded independently. Therefore, the sum of component items will not necessarily equal the totals shown.
2. Households who did not co-operate at both Wave One and Wave Two are omitted from all analyses. Those who omitted whole sections because they were partial refusals or interviewed by proxy are not included in the analyses of that section. The 'no answers' arising from omission of particular items have been excluded from the base numbers shown in the tables and from the bases used when calculating percentages.
3. Missing answers are excluded from the tables and in some cases this is reflected in the sample bases, i.e. these numbers vary between tables. For this reason, the weighted bases are excluded from tables as they

are not recommended as a source for population estimates. Recommended data sources for population estimates for most socio-demographic groups are: ONS mid-year estimates, the Labour Force Survey, or Housing Statistics from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

4. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available by visiting www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html or from the Media Relations Office email: media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Compendium

Chapter 2 - Participation Restrictions

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Release date:
10 April 2014

Next release:
To be announced

Table of contents

1. [Key findings](#)
2. [Aims of the chapter](#)
3. [Average number of life areas where a participation restriction was experienced](#)
4. [Change in the number of life areas where a participation restriction was experienced](#)
5. [Life areas where a participation restriction was most commonly experienced](#)
6. [Experience of participation restriction between Wave One and Wave Two](#)
7. [Impairment and participation restriction](#)
8. [Background notes](#)

1 . Key findings

- Having an impairment appeared to be associated with experiencing [participation restriction](#) in various [life areas](#)
- Adults with impairment at both waves were most likely to have a participation restriction in the areas of work, economic life¹, transport, and accessibility outside the home
- Offset adults (who had impairment at Wave One but no longer at Wave Two) were generally less likely to have participation restrictions at Wave Two than at Wave One
- In contrast, onset-acquired adults (who had acquired an impairment at Wave Two) were generally more likely to have participation restrictions at Wave Two than at Wave One
- Most adults, regardless of their impairment status, had a participation restriction in at least one life area at both waves, with transport and leisure being the two areas where a participation restriction was most widely experienced

Notes for Key findings:

1. Economic life refers to the household's ability to pay bills

2 . Aims of the chapter

This chapter explores how participation restriction was experienced by adults in different areas of their life, and whether there were changes to their experience of restriction between Wave One and Wave Two. The LOS collected information about adults' participation restriction in eight different life areas - education and training, work, economic life (ability to pay household bills), transport, leisure activities, social contact, accessibility in the home and accessibility outside the home. An adult has a participation restriction in a life area if he/she experiences at least one [barrier](#) in that area. Note that the types of barriers reported differ from area to area (e.g., 'lack of job opportunities' is a barrier relevant to work, but not to other areas)¹. This chapter focuses on whether adults are restricted in each life area, rather than focusing on the types of barriers reported. Chapters 3 – 5 will examine specific barriers reported by working age (16 to 64) adults in three life areas - work, education and training, and transport.

Within this chapter comparisons are made between the [four groups](#) of adults as described in the [Introduction](#) – adults with impairment at both waves, offset adults, onset-acquired adults, and adults without impairment at both waves. All analyses in this chapter will include all adults aged 16 and over. As stated in the Introduction, unless otherwise stated, changes and differences mentioned in this chapter have been found to be statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

Notes for aims of the chapter

1. More information on the [makeup of the LOS questionnaire](#)

3 . Average number of life areas where a participation restriction was experienced

Adults with impairment at both waves experienced a participation restriction in more life areas (an average of 3.3 life areas at both Wave One and Wave Two) than other groups (see Table 2.1). In contrast, adults without

impairment at both waves experienced a participation restriction in the fewest life areas (an average of 2.2 life areas at both Wave One and Wave Two).

Onset of impairment was associated with a rise in the number of life areas where a participation restriction was experienced, and offset of impairment with a fall. On average, onset-acquired adults had a participation restriction in 2.4 life areas at Wave One, and 2.7 life areas at Wave Two. In contrast, offset adults had a restriction in 2.7 life areas at Wave One, and 2.4 life areas at Wave Two.

Table 2.1 Average number of life areas with participation restriction: Wave One and Wave Two, by groups [1]

Adults aged 16 and over

	Great Britain		
	Wave One	Wave Two	Sample size (number)
Adults with impairment at both waves	3.3	3.3	4,450
Offset adults	2.7	2.4	2,180
Onset-acquired adults	2.4	2.7	1,450
Adults without impairment at both waves	2.2	2.2	6,080

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Sample sizes have been rounded independently to the nearest 10
3. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 0.1
4. Based on weighted data

4 . Change in the number of life areas where a participation restriction was experienced

Data collected on the LOS allows analysis of the change in experience of participation restriction between Wave One and Wave Two. Adults could have experienced more life areas with barriers (an increase), the same number of life areas with barriers (no change), or fewer life areas with barriers (a decrease).

Onset-acquired adults were likely to experience a participation restriction in more life areas, while adults who no longer had an impairment have a restriction in fewer life areas. Table 2.2 shows that 42% of onset-acquired adults had an increase in the number of life areas with a participation restriction, compared with 26% reporting a decrease. Offset adults showed the opposite – 27% had an increase and 46% had a decrease.

For adults with impairment at both waves, around the same percentage had an increase (35%) and a decrease (36%) in the number of life areas with a participation restriction between Wave One and Wave Two. This is similar for adults without impairment at both waves (34% and 35% for increase and decrease respectively).

Having an impairment might not be the only influence on whether adults experience a participation restriction, as around the same percentage of adults in each group (28% to 32%) had the same number of life areas with a restriction across waves (although the specific life areas with restriction might be different between waves).

Table 2.2 Percentage of adults with an increase, no change, or a decrease in the number of life areas with participation restriction between Wave One and Wave Two, by groups[1]

	Change in participation restriction (percentage)			Sample size (number)
	Increase	No change	Decrease	
Adults with impairment at both waves	35	29	36	4,450
Offset adults	27	28	46	2,180
Onset-acquired adults	42	32	26	1,450
Adults without impairment at both waves	34	31	35	6,080

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

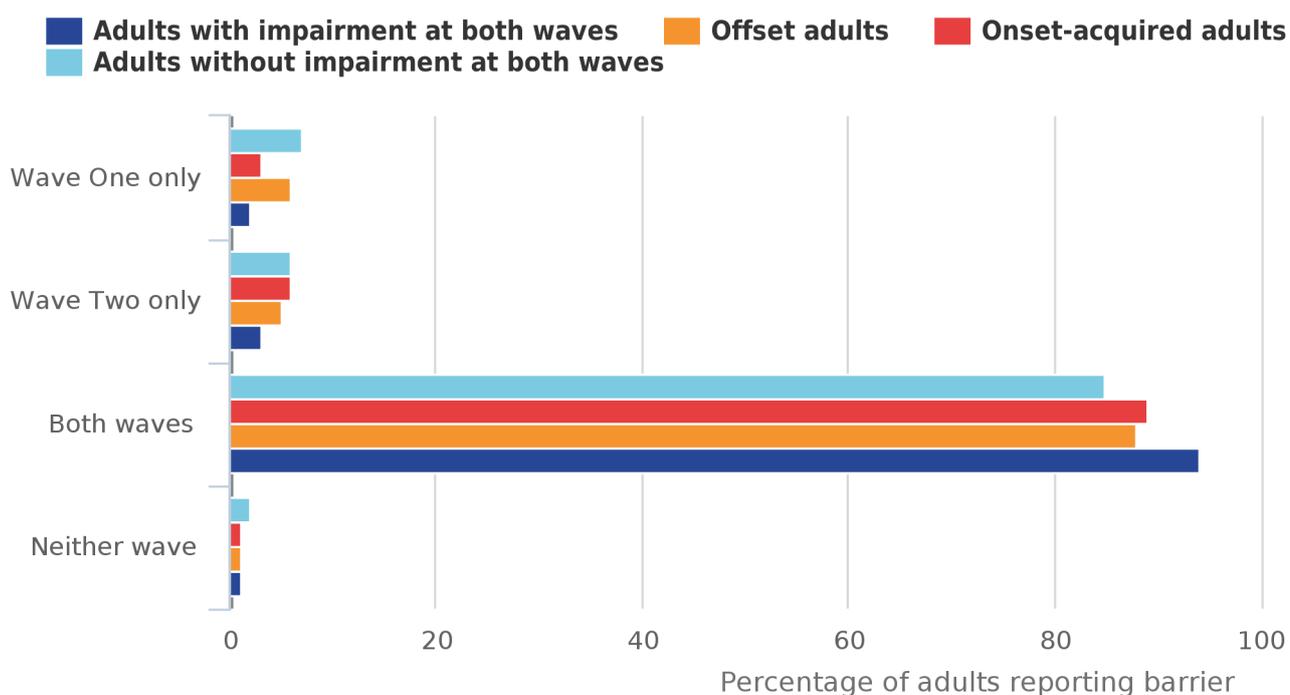
Note:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Sample sizes have been rounded independently to the nearest 10
3. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
4. Based on weighted data

Regardless of impairment status, the vast majority of adults were restricted from participating in at least one of the eight life areas at both waves. Figure 2.1 shows that across all four groups, between 85% to 94% of adults were restricted in participating in at least one of the eight life areas at both Wave One and Wave Two. Only a very small percentage (around 1% to 2%) did not experience any participation restriction in eight life areas at either or both waves of the survey. As will be shown in Chapters 3 – 5, when we look at each life area on its own, the percentage of adults¹ with a participation restriction at some point of the survey becomes lower².

Figure 2.1 All life areas: percentage of adults with a participation restriction at Wave One only, Wave Two only, both waves or neither waves, by groups[1]

Adults aged 16 and over



Source: Life Opportunities Survey - Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Sample sizes have been rounded independently to the nearest 10
3. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
4. Based on weighted data

Notes for 2.4 Change in the number of life areas where a participation restriction was experienced

1. Chapters 3 – 5 focus on working age adults, whereas this chapter looks at all adults aged 16 and over. We found no evidence that working age adults had lower levels of participation restriction in any of the life areas than did adults aged 65 and over
2. This is largely due to leisure and transport, the two life areas where most adults experience a participation restriction - as seen in section 2.5

5 . Life areas where a participation restriction was most commonly experienced

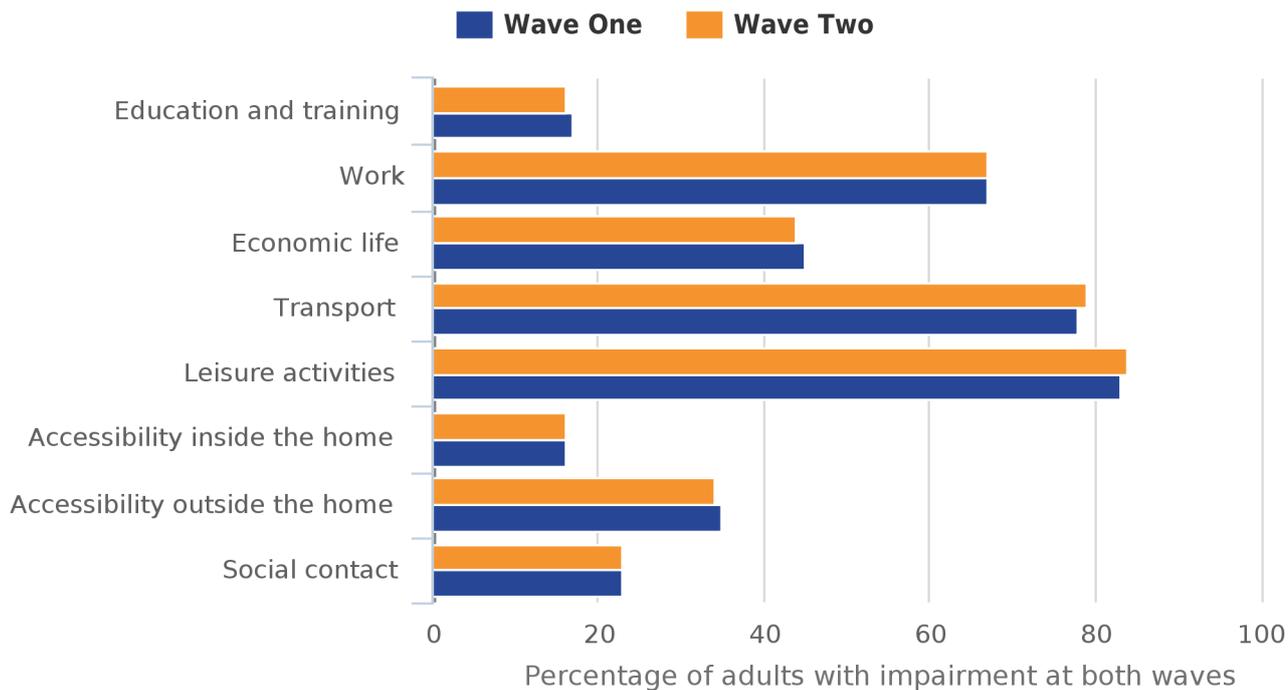
Leisure activities and transport were the two life areas where most adults experienced participation restriction. This was true for all four groups (see Figures 2.2 - 2.5).

Having an impairment appears to be associated with participation restriction. Adults with impairment at both waves were more likely than adults without impairment at both waves to have a participation restriction in all life areas except social contact. For example, 83% of adults with impairment at both waves experienced a participation restriction to leisure at Wave One, compared with 78% of adults without impairment at both waves (the figures were 84% and 77% respectively at Wave Two).

The onset and offset of impairment also appear to be associated with changes in participation restriction. Between Wave One and Wave Two, the percentage of offset adults experiencing restrictions fell in the areas of work, transport, leisure and accessibility outside the home, while the percentage of onset-acquired adults experiencing restrictions increased in the same life areas. For example, 81% of offset adults experienced a participation restriction to leisure at Wave One, with the figure falling to 76% at Wave Two. For onset-acquired adults, 79% had a participation restriction to leisure at Wave One, rising to 83% at Wave Two. For adults with impairment at both waves, and those without impairment at both waves, there was little change between Wave One and Wave Two in the percentage that experienced a participation restriction in each life area.

Figure 2.2 Adults with impairment at both waves[1]: percentage experiencing a participation restriction at Wave One and Wave Two, by life areas

Adults aged 16 and over



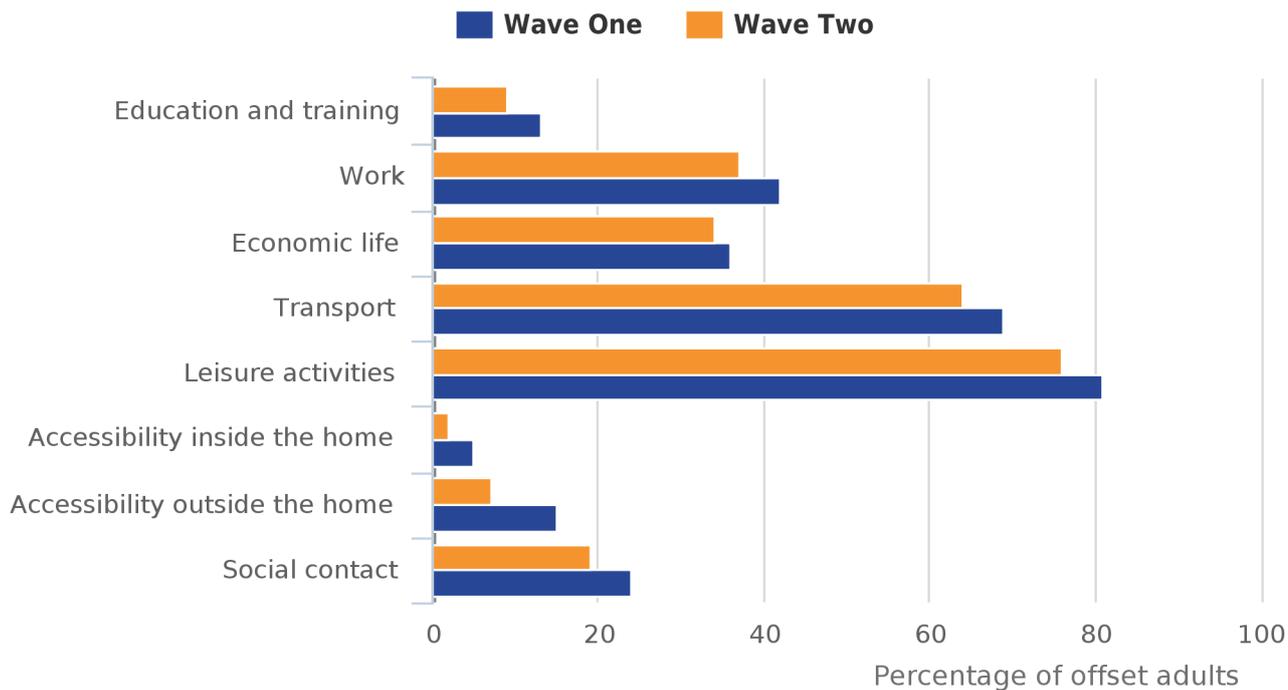
Source: Life Opportunities Survey - Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Sample sizes have been rounded independently to the nearest 10
3. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
4. Based on weighted data

Figure 2.3 Offset adults[1]: percentage experiencing a participation restriction at Wave One and Wave Two, by life areas

Adults aged 16 and over



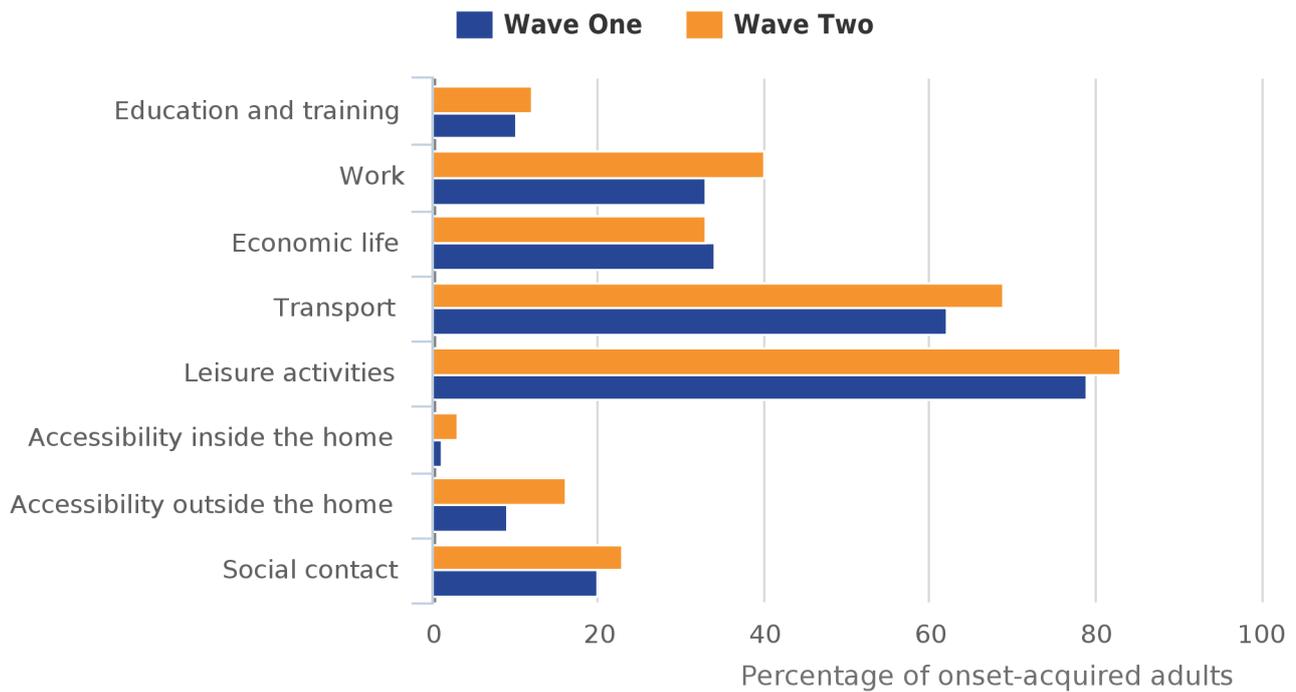
Source: Life Opportunities Survey - Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Sample sizes have been rounded independently to the nearest 10
3. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
4. Based on weighted data

Figure 2.4 Onset-acquired adults[1]: percentage experiencing a participation restriction at Wave One and Wave Two, by life areas

Adults aged 16 and over



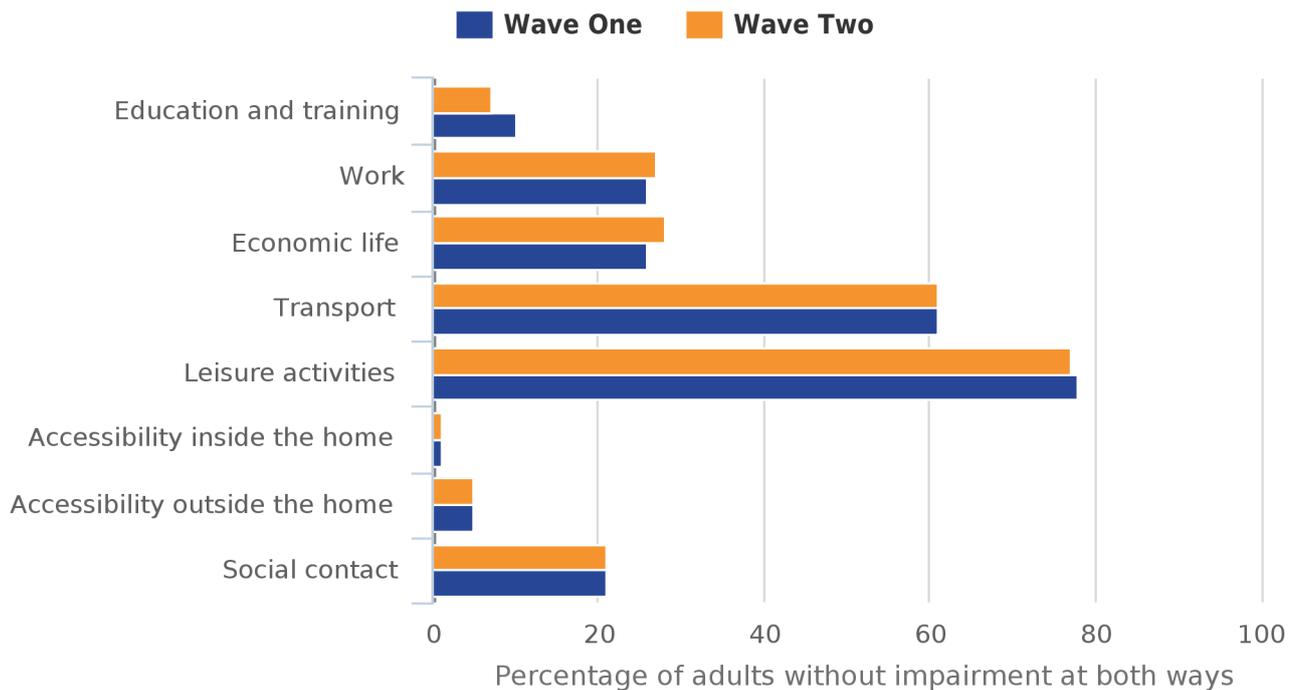
Source: Life Opportunities Survey - Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Sample sizes have been rounded independently to the nearest 10
3. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
4. Based on weighted data

Figure 2.5 Adults without impairment at both waves[1]: percentage experiencing a participation restriction at Wave One and Wave Two, by life areas

Adults aged 16 and over



Source: Life Opportunities Survey - Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Sample sizes have been rounded independently to the nearest 10
3. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
4. Based on weighted data

6 . Experience of participation restriction between Wave One and Wave Two

Data collected in the LOS allows analysis of whether a participation restriction to each life area was experienced at Wave One only, at Wave Two only, at neither wave, or at both waves.

Transport and leisure activities were the two areas where most adults experienced a participation restriction at both waves. In other areas, most adults were not restricted at either wave. This was true for all four groups (see Figures 2.6 – 2.13).

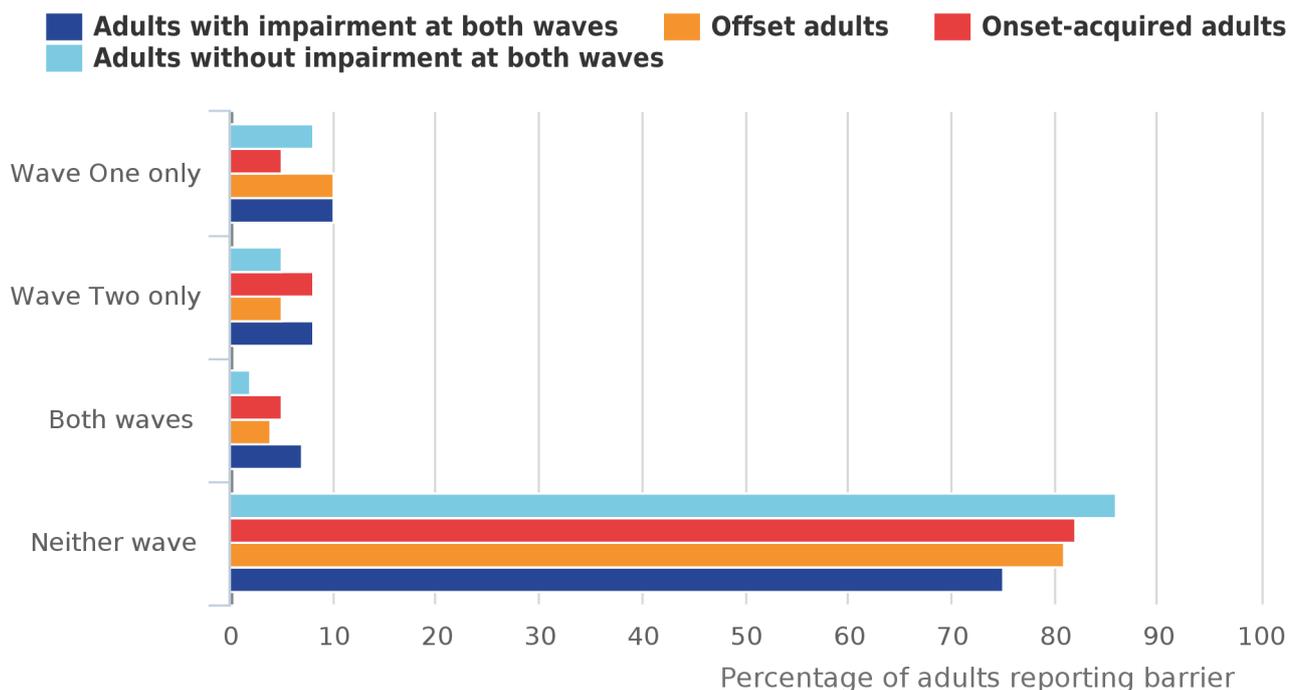
As seen earlier in the chapter, having an impairment appears to be associated with experiencing a participation restriction. Adults with impairment at both waves were more likely than adults without impairment at both waves to experience a participation restriction at both Wave One and Wave Two, and less likely to experience restriction at neither wave. This pattern is clearest in the following life areas: work, economic life, transport, and accessibility outside the home. Additionally, offset adults were more likely than onset-acquired adults to experience a

participation restriction at Wave One only, while onset-acquired adults were more likely than offset adults to experience a restriction at Wave Two only. This was particularly evident in the following life areas: work, transport and accessibility outside the home.

These two patterns can be seen together in accessibility outside the home. Here, a fifth (20%) of adults with impairment at both waves had a barrier at both Wave One and Wave Two, compared with 1% of adults without impairment at both waves. Half (50%) of adults with impairment at both waves had no participation restriction at either wave, compared with 91% of adults without impairment at both waves. Offset adults were more likely than onset-acquired adults to experience a restriction at Wave One only (11% compared with 6%), but onset-acquired adults were more likely than offset adults to experience a restriction at Wave Two only (13% compared with 4%).

Figure 2.6 Education and training: percentage of adults with a participation restriction at Wave One only, Wave Two only, both waves or neither waves, by groups[1]

Adults aged 16 and over



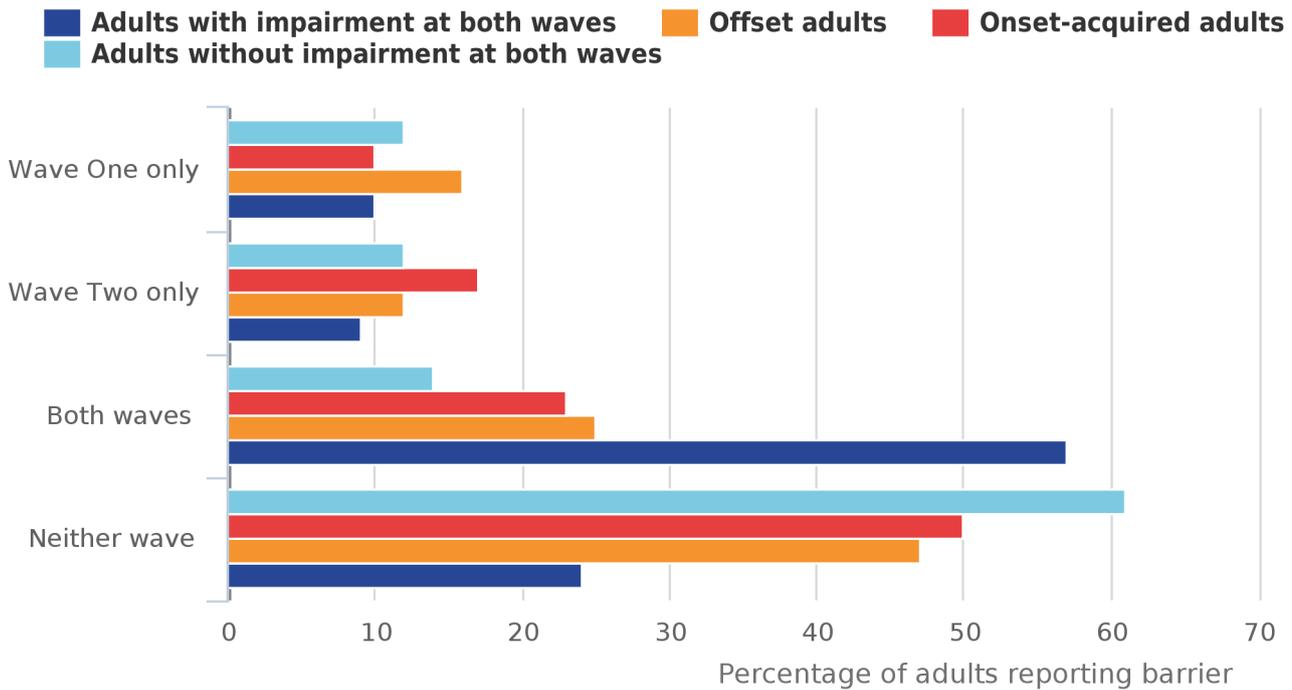
Source: Life Opportunities Survey - Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Sample sizes have been rounded independently to the nearest 10
3. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
4. Based on weighted data

Figure 2.7 Work: percentage of adults with a participation restriction at Wave One only, Wave Two only, both waves or neither wave, by groups[1]

Adults aged 16 and over



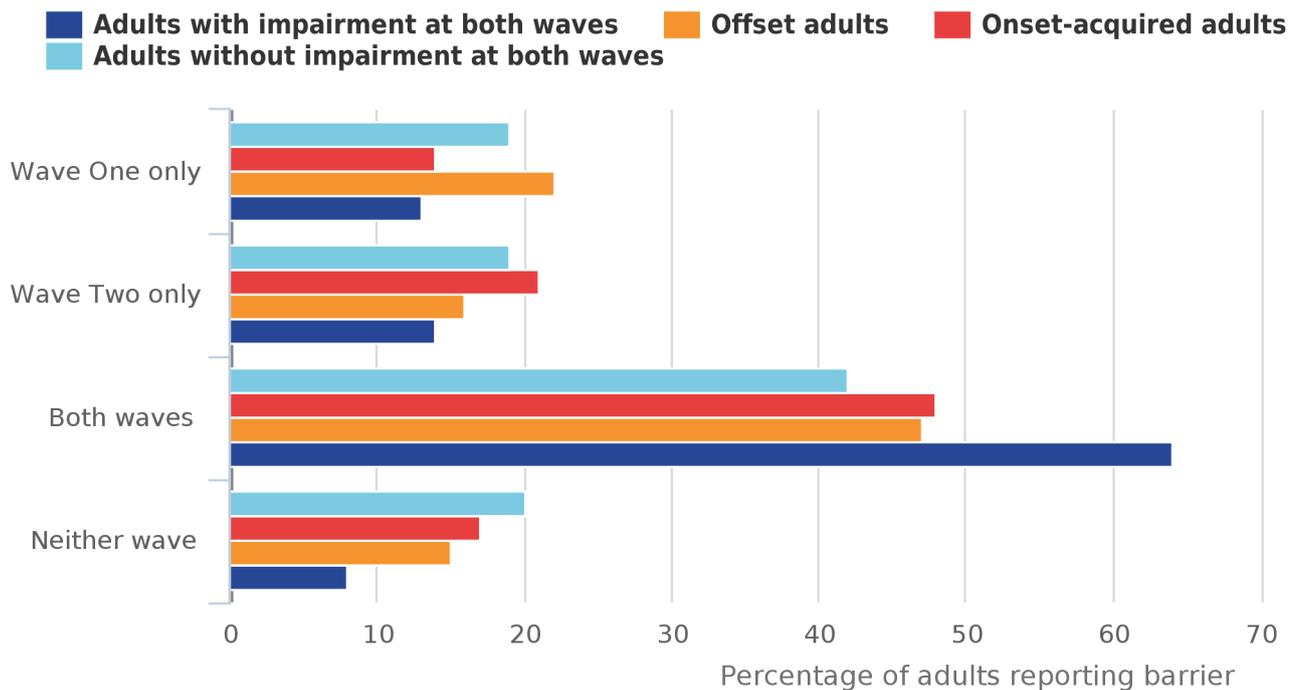
Source: Life Opportunities Survey - Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Sample sizes have been rounded independently to the nearest 10
3. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
4. Based on weighted data

Figure 2.9 Transport: percentage of adults with a participation restriction at Wave One only, Wave Two only, both waves or neither wave, by groups[1]

Adults aged 16 and over



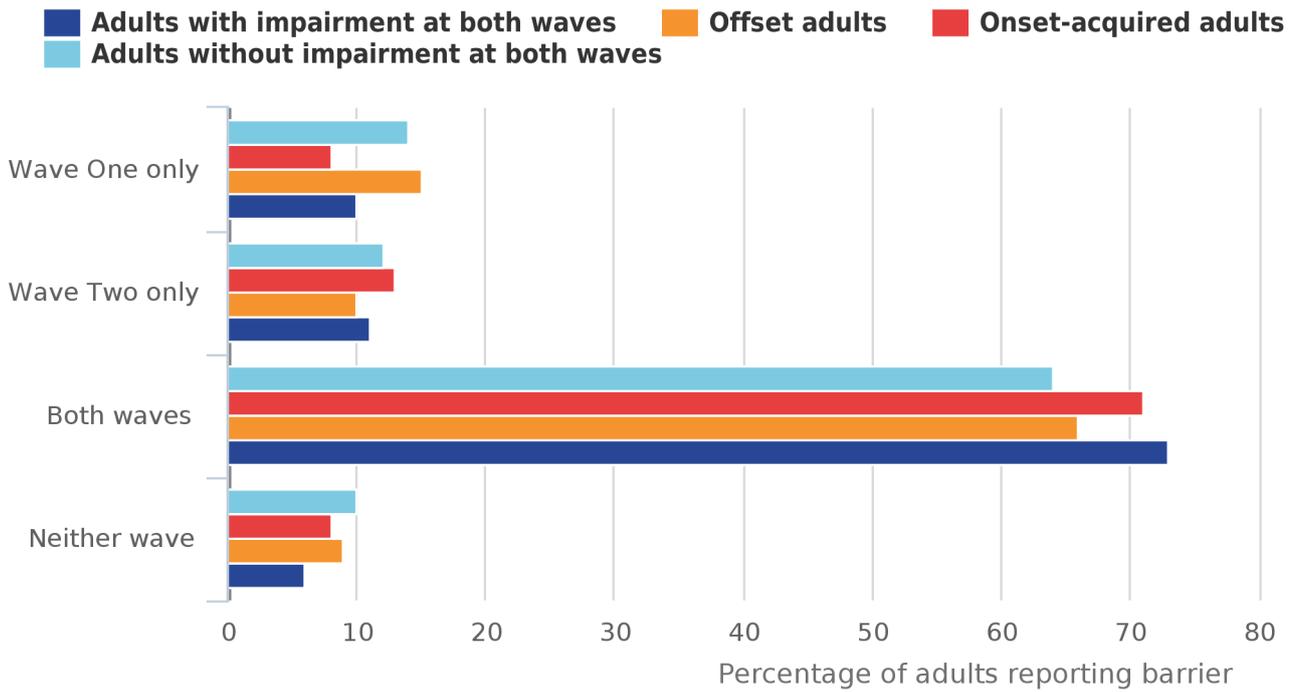
Source: Life Opportunities Survey - Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Sample sizes have been rounded independently to the nearest 10
3. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
4. Based on weighted data

Figure 2.10 Leisure activities: percentage of adults with a participation restriction at Wave One only, Wave Two only, both waves or neither waves, by groups[1]

Adults aged 16 and over



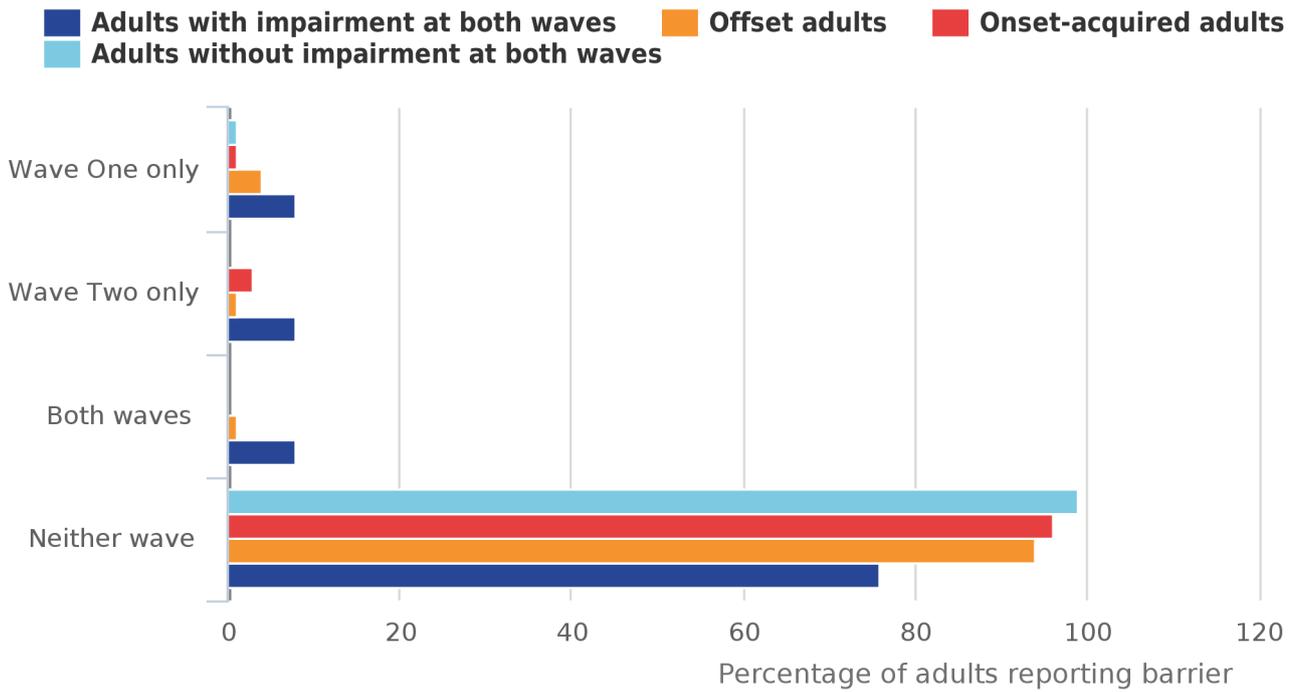
Source: Life Opportunities Survey - Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Sample sizes have been rounded independently to the nearest 10
3. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
4. Based on weighted data

Figure 2.11 Accessibility in the home: percentage of adults with a participation restriction at Wave One only, Wave Two only, both waves or neither waves, by groups[1]

Adults aged 16 and over



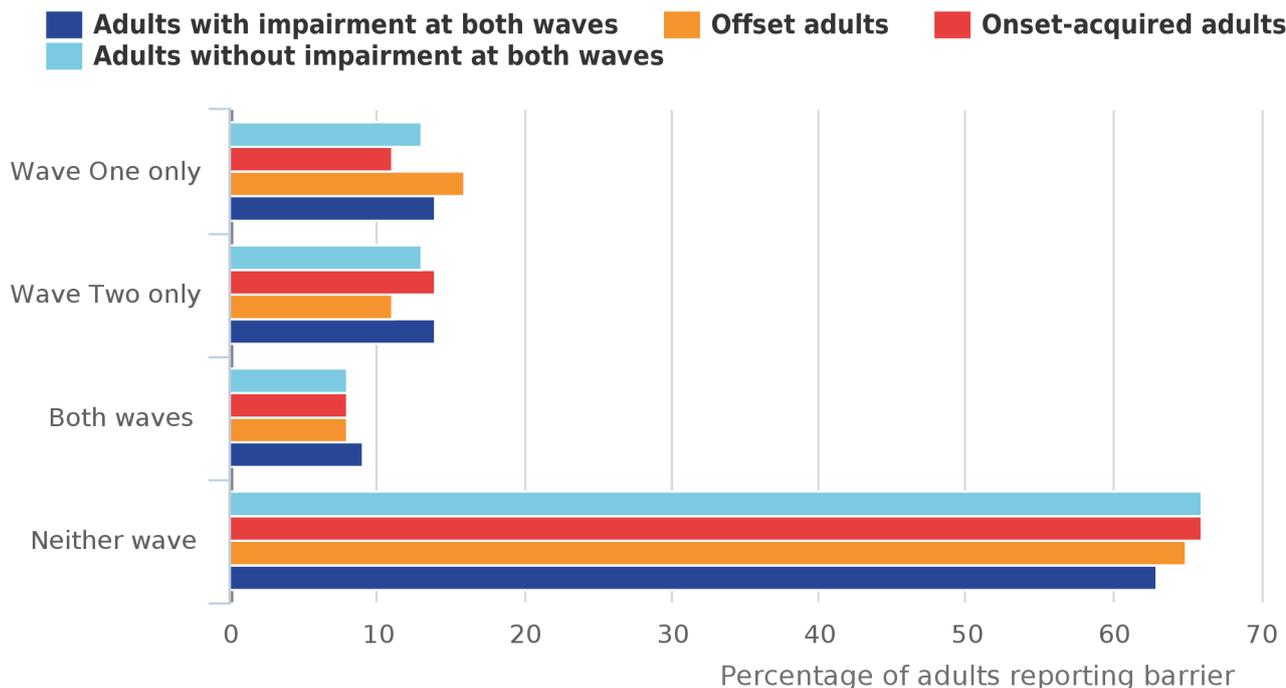
Source: Life Opportunities Survey - Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. 0 - Less than 0.5 per cent, including none
3. Sample sizes have been rounded independently to the nearest 10
4. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
5. Based on weighted data

Figure 2.13 Social contact: percentage of adults with a participation restriction at Wave One only, Wave Two only, both waves or neither wave, by groups[1]

Adults aged 16 and over



Source: Life Opportunities Survey - Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Sample sizes have been rounded independently to the nearest 10
3. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
4. Based on weighted data

7 . Impairment and participation restriction

The findings in this section suggest an association between impairment and participation restriction. In most life areas, adults with impairment at both waves were more likely than adults without impairment at both waves to experience a participation restriction. It also appears that the onset of impairment was generally associated with an increase in participation restriction, and offset of impairment with a decrease.

These results are consistent with [existing research](#) showing difficulties faced by disabled people in various aspects of daily life. In a [previous report](#), we found that adults with impairment at both waves were less likely to be in employment at both waves, and a large proportion of this group, compared with other groups, had an income of less than £200 a week. It was therefore unsurprising that adults with impairment at both waves were also more likely than other groups to experience a participation restriction in areas such as work and economic life (household’s ability to pay bills). In this chapter we also found that adults with impairment at both waves were more likely to experience a participation restriction to transport and accessibility outside the home. Transport and leisure activities were the two life areas where most adults experienced a participation restriction, regardless of whether they had an impairment or not.

It is important to bear in mind that the LOS uses the [social model of disability](#), and the reporting of both impairments and participation restrictions was based on respondent's personal view (as is the case for all surveys that collect opinion-based data). Therefore, while impairment may give rise to a participation restriction, it is equally possible that experiencing a restriction may lead to the perception of having an impairment. Additionally, the effects of impairments on participation restriction may take some time to become evident. For example, the offset of impairment may not bring about the immediate removal of barriers (and hence participation restriction). In areas like work and economic life, an impairment may lead to persisting unemployment and financial difficulties, and a participation restriction may continue to be experienced for some time after impairment is offset.

Finally, this chapter gave details on life areas where a participation restriction was experienced but did not describe the types of barriers reported. Therefore, it is possible that adults had a participation restriction at both waves, but the specific type of barrier reported had changed between waves (e.g., the barrier to work at Wave One may have been reported as 'lack of job opportunities' while at Wave Two, another barrier such as 'family responsibilities' may have been reported). Chapters 3 - 5 will give further details on the kinds of barriers reported in the life areas of work, education and training, and transport for working age adults.

8. Background notes

1. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available by visiting www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html or from the Media Relations Office email: media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Compendium

Chapter 3 - Work

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Release date:
10 April 2014

Next release:
To be announced

Table of contents

1. [Key findings](#)
2. [Aims of this chapter](#)
3. [Working age adults employed at both waves – barriers reported](#)
4. [Working age adults who were economically inactive at both waves – reasons for not working](#)
5. [Types of enablers reported at Wave Two by employed and economically inactive adults](#)
6. [Background notes](#)

1 . Key findings

- ‘Family responsibilities’, ‘lack of job opportunities’¹ and ‘lack of qualifications/experience/skills’ were common barriers at work reported by adults employed at both [waves](#)
- Employed adults with impairment at both waves were more likely to have a participation restriction to work than employed adults without impairment at both waves
- Having an impairment may be associated with experiencing impairment-based barriers at work. ‘A health condition, illness or impairment’ was the top barrier for adults with impairment at both waves, and was a barrier reported by offset adults at Wave One, and by onset-acquired adults at Wave Two
- For adults who were economically inactive at both waves, ‘family responsibilities’ was a reason commonly reported for not working. Impairment and disability-related reasons were also reported by adults with impairment at both waves, offset and onset-acquired adults
- Most adults who were employed at both waves did not report any enablers which helped them at work. Similarly, most adults who were economically inactive at both waves did not report any enablers which they needed to be able to work
- When reported, however, the most common enablers were ‘modified hours or days or reduced work hours’ and ‘tax credits’². These enablers might have been reported for various reasons – as ways to cope with family or caring responsibilities, or to manage a health condition, illness or impairment, or to supplement low income

Notes

1. Lack of job opportunities’ can still be relevant to someone who is employed, because he/she might not be in the job he/she is qualified for, or would like to do
2. A person may qualify for a [tax credit](#) if he/she works but earns low wages

2 . Aims of this chapter

We saw in [Chapter 2](#) that adults on the LOS can be classified into four [groups for analysis](#):

- adults with impairment at both waves
- offset adults
- onset-acquired adults
- adults without impairment at both waves

These groups reflect the diversity of [impairment status](#), in that impairment status may be stable, or may change over time. A person may have impairments at both waves (group 1) or no impairment at both waves (group 4), or they may no longer have impairments (group 2) or they may acquire impairments at Wave Two (group 3).

As with impairment status, a person may have a change in his/her [economic activity status](#) between waves. However, because most people were employed at both waves or were economically inactive at both waves, this chapter will focus on these subsets of people. Due to insufficient sample size ([only 2% to 3% of each group were unemployed at both waves](#)), it is not possible to analyse adults who were unemployed at both waves¹.

[Chapter 2](#) of this report explores changes in [participation restriction](#) experienced between Wave One and Wave Two. According to the LOS definition, adults who had a participation restriction in one or more life area will experience barriers. People may report different [barriers](#) depending on their economic activity status.

On the LOS, adults employed at both waves were asked to report barriers which limit them in the type or amount of work they do. Adults who were economically inactive at both waves (excluding retired people and students) were asked about reasons for not working. Barriers to work or reasons for not working could include 'family responsibilities', 'lack of job opportunities'² and 'attitudes of employers'. Respondents may report none, or one or more barriers/reasons. The barriers/reasons reported by adults may change over time. For work it is possible to see if a particular barrier/reason was:

- i. reported at both waves
- ii. reported at Wave One only
- iii. reported at Wave Two only
- iv. not reported at either wave

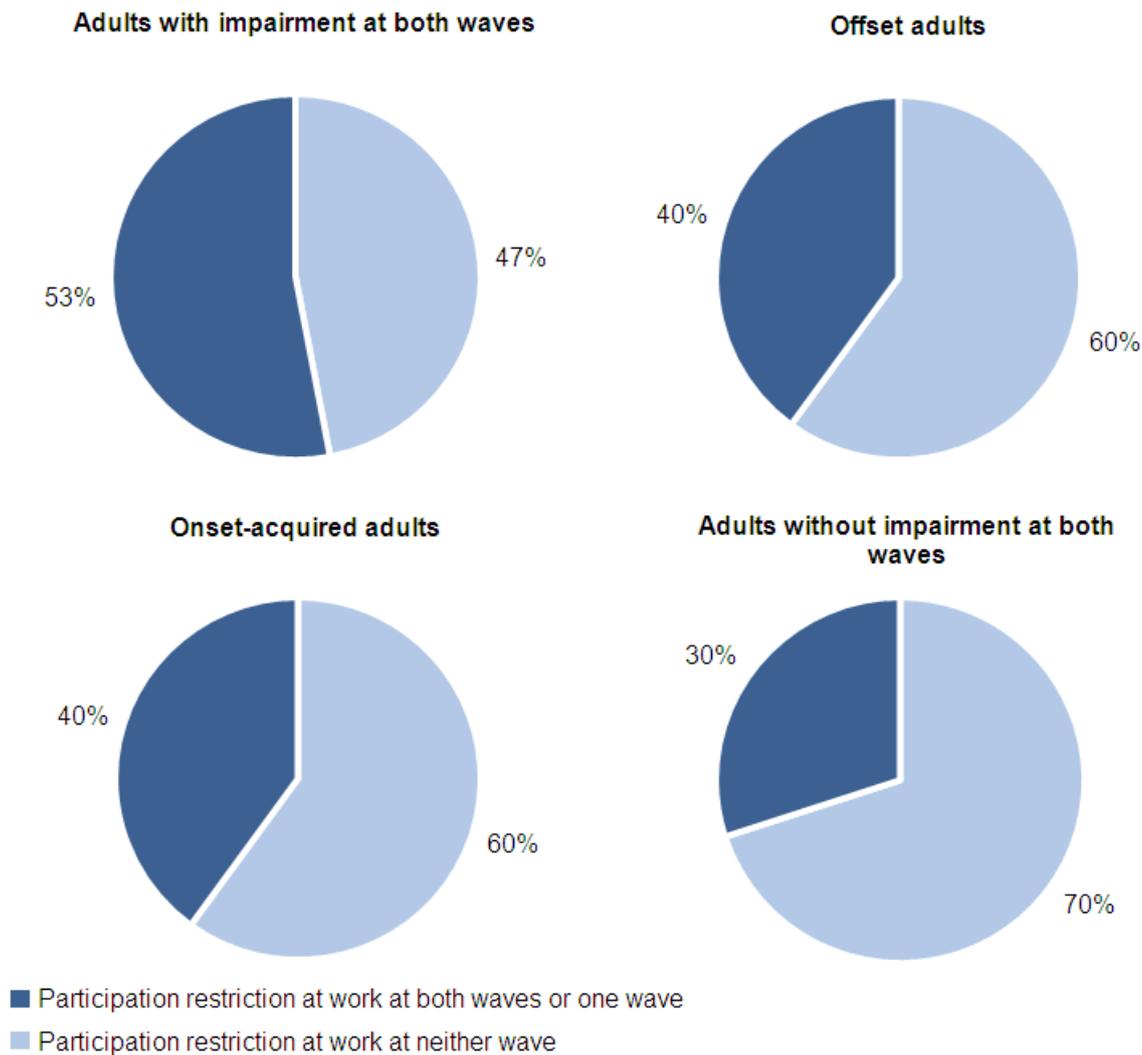
This chapter describes the types of barriers to work by working age (16 to 64) adults who were employed at both waves³, and who experienced a participation restriction at any point in the survey (as identified by the dark sections of the pie charts (see Figure 3.1)). For these adults the types of barriers that were reported at both waves or at either wave (groups i, ii, and iii above) will be examined by group.

For working age adults who were economically inactive at both waves (excluding retired people and students), this chapter examines the types of reasons reported at both waves or at either wave (groups i, ii, and iii above), by group.

This chapter will also examine the types of '[enabler](#)s' reported for work. For employed adults, enablers are measures which helped them at work, whereas for economically inactive adults, enablers are measures which they need to be able to work. For both employed and economically inactive adults, enablers could include 'modified hours or days or reduced work hours' and 'tax credits'⁴. As with barriers, respondents may report none, or one or more enabler.

Figure 3.1 Percentage of working-age (16 to 64) adults with a participation restriction to work, by group [1](#)

Adults aged between 16 and 64 who were employed at both waves, and experienced a participation restriction to work at either or both waves



Source: Life Opportunities Survey - Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Sample sizes have been rounded independently to the nearest 10
3. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
4. Based on weighted data

3 . Working age adults employed at both waves – barriers reported

This section focuses on working age (16 to 64) adults who were employed at both waves.

Tables 3.1 to 3.4 show the top four barriers reported by each group, broken down by whether the specific barriers were reported at both waves or at one wave of the survey¹. The analysis has been approached in this way in order to explore the types of barriers that are reported at both waves (i.e. those that are persistent), compared to those that are reported at one wave only (i.e. those that are transient).

'Family responsibilities' was the barrier most commonly-reported (either at both waves, or at one wave of the survey) for offset adults, onset-acquired adults and adults without impairment at both waves. It was also the second-most common barrier to be reported at some point of the survey by adults with impairment at both waves. 'Family responsibilities' here refer mainly to childcare, and is a well-known concern for most working families facing the competing needs to work and to care for their children. [Data from the Labour Force Survey](#) also show that one of the main reasons for economic inactivity for working age adults was '[looking after family/home](#)' (with 'students', 'long-term sick', and 'retired' being other most commonly-reported reasons).

Having impairment(s) appears to be associated with having impairment-based barriers to work. 'A health condition, illness or impairment' was the most commonly reported barrier. The relationship between impairment and impairment-based barriers can also be seen in the offset and onset-acquired groups. For offset adults, 'a health condition, illness or impairment' was the third-most common barrier that was reported at Wave One, but no longer at Wave Two. In contrast, this barrier was third-most commonly reported at Wave Two only for onset-acquired adults. This pattern suggests the joint offset (and onset) of impairment and impairment-based barrier.

In general, barriers tended to be reported at either wave, rather than at both waves. For all groups, apart from 'family responsibilities', all other work barriers were rarely reported at both waves (see 'Barrier at both waves' columns on Tables 3.1 – 3.4). This suggests that 'family responsibilities' may be a more persistent barrier than other barriers. For adults with impairment at both waves, 'a health condition, illness or impairment' may also be seen as a persistent barrier (Table 3.1).

Of the other barriers, 'lack of job opportunities' and 'lack of qualifications/experience/skills' were generally the next most commonly-reported barriers. These two barriers appeared to affect working age adults regardless of their impairment status. This finding may reflect the downturn experienced in the labour market as the UK economy was emerging from the 2008/09 recession. Even though the adults included in the analyses were employed at both waves, 'lack of job opportunities' might have been reported because these adults were in jobs that did not suit their qualifications, or [did not offer them the desired number of hours](#).

Table 3.1, Adults with impairment at both waves[1]: top four barriers at work, by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64 who were employed at both waves, and experienced a participation restriction to work at either or both waves²

				Great Britain
Rank	Barrier at both waves %	Barrier at Wave One only %	Barrier at Wave Two only %	
1	A health condition, illness or impairment 15	A health condition, illness or impairment 14	A health condition, illness or impairment 22	
2	Family responsibilities 10	Family responsibilities 10	Family responsibilities 10	
3	A disability 6	Lack of job opportunities 8	Lack of job opportunities 10	
4	Lack of job opportunities 4	Attitudes of employers 7	Lack of qualifications/experience/skills 10	

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Note:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 510 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)

Table 3.2 Offset adults[1]: top four barriers to work, by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64 who were employed at both waves, and experienced a participation restriction to work at either or both waves²

			Great Britain
Rank	Barrier at both waves %	Barrier at Wave One only %	Barrier at Wave Two only %
1	Family responsibilities 10	Family responsibilities 13	Family responsibilities 14
2	Lack of qualifications/experience /skills 2	Lack of job opportunities 11	Lack of job opportunities 8
3	Lack of job opportunities 2	A health condition, illness or impairment 9	Lack of qualifications /experience/skills 7
4	Attitudes of employers 2	Lack of qualifications/experience /skills 9	Difficulty with transport 4

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Note:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 360 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)

Table 3.3 Onset-acquired adults[1]: top four barriers at work, by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64 who were employed at both waves, and experienced a participation restriction to work at either or both waves²

			Great Britain
Rank	Barrier at both waves %	Barrier at Wave One only %	Barrier at Wave Two only %
1	Family responsibilities 16	Family responsibilities 11	Family responsibilities 21
2	Caring responsibilities 2	Lack of job opportunities 6	Lack of qualifications/experience /skills 13
3	Lack of qualifications/experience /skills 1	Lack of qualifications/experience /skills 4	A health condition, illness or impairment 11
4	Lack of job opportunities 1	Caring responsibilities 4	Lack of job opportunities 8

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Note:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 210 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)

Table 3.4 Adults without impairment at both waves[1]: top four barriers to work, by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64 who were employed at both waves, and experienced a participation restriction to work at either or both waves²

			Great Britain	
Rank	Barrier at both waves %	Barrier at Wave One only %	Barrier at Wave Two only %	
1	Family responsibilities 14	Family responsibilities 16	Family responsibilities 21	
2	Lack of job opportunities 2	Lack of job opportunities 11	Lack of job opportunities 7	
3	Lack of qualifications/experience/skills 2	Lack of qualifications/experience/skills 5	Lack of qualifications/experience/skills 6	
4	Caring responsibilities 1	Attitudes of employers 4	Difficulty with transport 4	

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Note:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 870 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
3. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
4. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Details of all barriers types can be found in the [data section of this publication](#). The [data can also be viewed as interactive charts](#).

Notes for 3.3 Working age adults employed at both waves – barriers reported

1. The rankings are calculated based on the percentage of adults who reported each particular barrier at both waves, at Wave One only, or at Wave Two only, out of those adults from that particular group who had a participation restriction to work at either or both waves

4 . Working age adults who were economically inactive at both waves – reasons for not working

Tables 3.5 to 3.8 show the top four reasons for not working, as reported by each group, broken down by whether the specific reasons were reported at both waves or at one wave of the survey¹. The analysis has been approached in this way in order to explore the types of reasons that are reported at both waves (i.e. those that are persistent), compared to those that are reported at one wave only (i.e. those that are transient).

For adults who were economically inactive at both waves, reasons for not working appeared to be stable over time, as they were more likely to be reported at both waves, rather than at one wave only. 'Family responsibilities' was a common reason reported consistently over time, particularly for offset adults, onset-acquired adults and adults without impairment at both waves. For adults with impairment at both waves, 'a health condition, illness or impairment' and 'a disability' were the top two reasons reported for not working. It is worth noting here that adults in this analysis were economically inactive and were therefore not working and not seeking work. Therefore, the reasons for not working reported by this group may be related to personal circumstances as well as economic factors.

'A disability', rather than 'a health condition, illness or impairment', seems to be more closely associated with the offset and onset of impairment. 'A health condition, illness or impairment' tended to be reported at both waves by both offset and onset-acquired adults (Tables 3.6 and 3.7). However, for offset adults, 'a disability' was the top reason reported at Wave One only, but did not feature as a reason at Wave Two only. In contrast, 'a disability' was the third-most reported reason at Wave Two only for the onset-acquired group, coinciding with their onset of impairment. Adults with impairment at both waves also tended to report 'a disability' as a reason for not working, at both or one of the waves. It may be that most of these adults were economically inactive because they were long-term sick or disabled, and hence they perceived themselves as having a disability, in addition to impairments.

Some reasons for not working seemed to be more transient, as they were reported only at one wave, rather than both waves. These included 'anxiety/lack of confidence', 'lack of qualifications/experience/skills' and 'receipt of benefits'.

Table 3.5, Adults with impairment at both waves [1]: top four reasons for not working

Adults aged between 16 and 64 who were economically inactive at both waves²

				Great Britain		
Rank	Reason reported at both waves	%	Reason reported at Wave One only	%		
				Reason reported at Wave Two only		
				%		
1	A health condition, illness or impairment	63	A disability	15	A disability	18
2	A disability	32	Anxiety/lack of confidence	15	A health condition, illness or impairment	13
3	Family responsibilities	12	A health condition, illness or impairment	13	Difficulty with transport	10
4	Anxiety/lack of confidence	8	Difficulty with transport	8	Anxiety/lack of confidence	9

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Note:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report

2. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 800 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)

Table 3.6 Offset adults[1]: top four reasons for not working

Adults aged between 16 and 64 who were economically inactive at both waves²

				Great Britain
Rank	Reason reported at both waves	%	Reason reported at Wave One only	%
				Reason reported at Wave Two only
				%

1	Family responsibilities 43	A disability 12	A health condition, illness or impairment 8
2	A health condition, illness or impairment 25	A health condition, illness or impairment 11	Family responsibilities 8
3	Caring responsibilities 7	Anxiety/lack of confidence 10	Lack of qualifications/ experience/ skills 8
4	A disability 6	Family responsibilities 9	Lack of job opportunities 7

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Note:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 70 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
3. Please see reference tables for data for all reasons
4. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Table 3.7, Onset-acquired adults[1]: top four reasons for not working

Adults aged between 16 and 64 who were economically inactive at both waves²

			Great Britain
Rank	Reason reported at both waves %	Reason reported at Wave One only %	Reason reported at Wave Two only %
1	A health condition, illness or impairment 35	Anxiety/lack of confidence 11	Lack of qualifications/experience /skills 19
2	Family responsibilities 29	Family responsibilities 11	Anxiety/lack of confidence 17
3	Caring responsibilities 18	Affects receipt of benefits 9	A disability 14
4	Anxiety/lack of confidence 8	Caring responsibilities 8	Family responsibilities 12

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Note:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 70 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
3. Please see reference tables for data for all reasons
4. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Table 3.8, Adults without impairment at both waves[1]: top four reasons for not working

Adults aged between 16 and 64 who were economically inactive at both waves²

Great Britain

Rank	Reason reported at both waves %	Reason reported at Wave One only %	Reason reported at Wave Two only %
1	Family responsibilities 69	Affects receipt of benefits 9	Caring responsibilities 10
2	Caring responsibilities 6	Family responsibilities 7	Anxiety/lack of confidence 6
3	Lack of job opportunities 2	Lack of job opportunities 4	Family responsibilities 5
4	Difficulty with transport 2	Anxiety/lack of confidence 3	Difficulty with transport 5

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Note:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 240 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
3. Please see reference tables for data for all reasons
4. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Details of all barriers types can be found in the [data section of this publication](#). The [data can also be viewed as interactive charts](#).

Notes for 3.4 Working age adults who were economically inactive at both waves – reasons for not working

1. The rankings are calculated based on the percentage of adults who reported each particular barrier at both waves, at Wave One only, or at Wave Two only, out of those adults from that particular group who had a participation restriction to work at either or both waves

5 . Types of enablers reported at Wave Two by employed and economically inactive adults

The LOS asks adults in employment if there is anything which has helped them at work. Economically inactive adults are asked if they would need anything to be able to work. This section looks at the types of enablers reported at Wave Two. The following tables show the enablers most often reported at Wave Two by the four groups. Adults employed at both waves (Table 3.9) and adults who were economically inactive at both waves (Table 3.10) are shown separately.

Most adults who were employed at both waves did not report any enabler or measures which helped them at work. This was particularly the case for adults without impairment at both waves (78%) and offset adults (75%). Adults with impairment at both waves were most likely to report at least one enabler (39%).

When reported, the most common enablers for all groups were 'modified hours or days or reduced work hours', 'tax credits'¹ and 'changes to your work area or work equipment'. 'Modified hours or days or reduced work hours' might have been reported as a measure to ease family and caring responsibilities, both of which were common barriers to work for adults employed at both waves (Tables 3.1 to 3.4). Adults with impairment at both waves might have reported 'modified hours or days or reduced work hours' because of family responsibilities, although

this enabler could also be reported because of their impairment, which was the most common barrier for this group (Table 3.1). [Previous research](#) has shown that the provision of special equipment, modification of the workplace and flexible working hours are common measures adopted by employers in the workplace for disabled employees.

'Tax credits' was also a commonly reported enabler for all groups. 'Tax credits' is a payment provided by the Government for people earning a low income, and is available to working people including those with children and those with disability. This enabler was probably reported by employed adults because it has helped them in supplementing their income.

Table 3.9 Enablers that helped at work, as reported at Wave Two by working age (16 to 64) adults who were employed at both waves, by groups[1]

Adults aged between 16 and 64 who were employed at both waves

					Great Britain	
Rank	Adults with impairment % at both waves	Offset adults %	Onset-acquired adults %	Adults without % impairment at both waves		
1	Modified hours or 18 days or reduced work hours	Modified hours or 11 days or reduced work hours	Modified hours or 21 days or reduced work hours	Modified hours or 10 days or reduced work hours		
2	Tax credits 12	Tax credits 9	Tax credits 9	Tax credits 8		
3	Changes to your work 10 area or work equipment	Changes to your work 5 area or work equipment	Changes to your 8 work area or work equipment	Changes to your 4 work area or work equipment		
4	Modified duties 8	Modified duties 4	Modified duties 3	A job coach or 3 personal assistant		
	No enabler cited 61	No enabler cited 75	No enabler cited 69	No enabler cited 78		
Sample size (number)	960	910	520	2920		

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Note:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Please see reference tables for data for all enablers
3. Sample sizes have been rounded to the nearest 10
4. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
5. Based on weighted data

As with employed adults, most adults who were economically inactive at both waves did not report any enabler, or measures which they needed to be able to work. However, economically inactive adults were more likely to mention a measure that they needed to be able to work, than employed adults reporting a measure that has helped them at work.

The most commonly reported enablers for adults who were economically inactive at both waves included 'modified hours or days or reduced work hours', 'other equipment or services' and 'tax credits'. There could be various reasons why these enablers were reported. For example, they might help manage family and caring responsibilities. For adults with impairments, they might help overcome limitations posed by their impairment or

disability, a barrier commonly experienced by this group (see Tables 3.5 to 3.8). 'Tax credits' might have been reported because it was seen as something that would help them if they chose to work.

Table 3.10 Enablers that would help to work, as reported at Wave Two by economically inactive working age (16 to 64) adults, by groups[1]

Adults aged between 16 and 64 who were economically inactive at both waves

						Great Britain		
Rank	Adults with impairment at both waves	%	Offset adults	%	Onset-acquired adults	%	Adults without impairment at both waves	%
1	Modified hours or days or reduced work hours	29	Modified hours or days or reduced work hours	14	Modified hours or days or reduced work hours	32	Modified hours or days or reduced work hours	34
2	Other equipment or services	21	Other equipment or services	10	Other equipment or services	24	Tax credits	10
3	Modified duties	18	Tax credits	7	Tax credits	11	Other equipment or services	6
4	Building modifications	15	A job coach or personal assistant	4	Modified duties	11	Modified duties	3
	No enabler cited	56	No enabler cited	74	No enabler cited	56	No enabler cited	58.0315127857
Sample size (number)		780		150		70		240

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Note:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
3. Sample sizes have been rounded to the nearest 10
4. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
5. Based on weighted data

Notes for 3.5 Types of enablers reported at Wave Two by employed and economically inactive adults

1. A person may qualify for a tax credit if he/she works but earns low wages

6. Background notes

1. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available by visiting www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html or from the Media Relations Office email: media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Chapter 4 - Education and Training

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Release date:
10 April 2014

Next release:
To be announced

Table of contents

1. [Key findings](#)
2. [Aims of this Chapter](#)
3. [Types of Barriers Reported](#)
4. [Background notes](#)

1 . Key findings

- The majority of adults did not experience participation restriction to learning¹ in either [wave](#)
- Adults with impairment at both waves were twice as likely to have a participation restriction to learning in at least one wave compared to adults without impairment at both waves
- 'Financial reasons'² was the most commonly reported barrier to learning, regardless of an adult's impairment status
- 'Too busy/not enough time' was the second-most common barrier reported by offset adults, onset-acquired adults and adults without impairment at both waves
- For adults with impairment at both waves there is some evidence from the LOS data that they perceive their impairment to have affected their ability to participate in learning opportunities more than other barriers
- There was no apparent relationship between the onset/offset of impairments and impairment based barriers to learning opportunities

Notes for Key findings

1. Education and training is referred to as learning throughout the chapter
2. 'Financial reasons' could relate to a variety of things including: course fees; cost of learning resources; cost involved in time away from work; or cost of childcare to enable attendance on a course

2 . Aims of this Chapter

We saw in [Chapter 2](#) that adults in the LOS can be classified into four [groups for analysis](#):

1. adults with impairment at both waves
2. offset adults
3. onset-acquired adults
4. adults without impairment at both waves

These groups reflect the diversity of impairment status, in that impairment status may be stable, or may change over time. A person may have impairments at both waves (group 1) or no impairment at both waves (group 4), or they may no longer have impairments (group 2) or they may acquire impairments at Wave Two (group 3).

Chapter 2 of this report explores changes in participation restriction experienced between Wave One and Wave Two. According to the LOS definition, adults who had a participation restriction in one or more life area will experience barriers. Barriers to taking part in learning¹ include 'financial reasons', 'too busy /not enough time', and 'lack of information'. The barriers reported by adults may change over time. For each life area it is possible to see if a particular barrier was:

- i. reported at both waves
- ii. reported at Wave One only

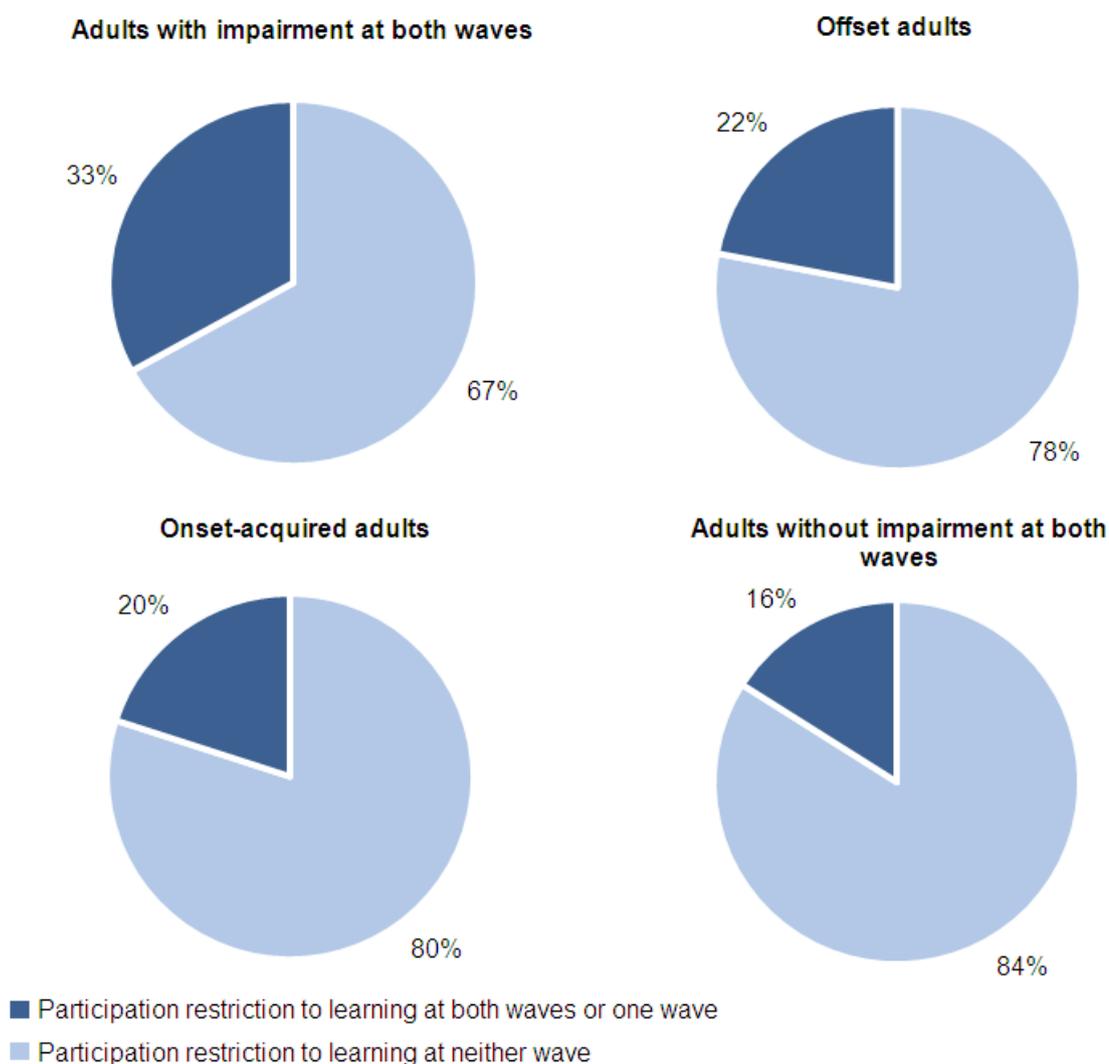
iii. reported at Wave Two only

iv. not reported at either wave

This chapter describes the types of barriers to learning experienced by working age adults², who experienced a participation restriction at any point in the survey (as identified by the dark sections of the pie charts (see Figure 4.1)). For these adults the types of barriers that were reported at both waves or at either wave (groups i, ii, and iii above) will be examined by group.

Figure 4.1 Percentage of working-age adults (16 to 64) with a participation restriction to learning¹, by group²

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to learning at either or both waves



Source: Life Opportunities Survey - Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Education and training is referred to as learning throughout the table

2. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
3. Sample sizes have been rounded independently to the nearest 10
4. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
5. Based on weighted data

As reported in chapter two, we can see in figure 4.1 that adults with impairment at both waves were more likely than other groups to have had a participation restriction to learning opportunities.

Notes for 4.2 Aims of this Chapter

1. Education and training is referred to as learning throughout the chapter
2. All analyses in this chapter will focus on adults of working age (16 to 64) only

3 . Types of Barriers Reported

Tables 4.1 to 4.4 show the top four barriers that were reported by each group, broken down by whether the specific barriers were reported at both waves or at one wave of the survey¹. The analysis has been approached in this way in order to explore the types of barriers that are reported at both waves (i.e. those that are persistent), compared to those that are reported at one wave only (i.e. those that are transient).

All groups reported similar barriers at both waves, and at one wave only. 'Financial reasons' was the most commonly-reported barrier to learning for all of the groups, at both waves, and at one wave. 'Too busy/not enough time' and 'caring responsibilities' were also among the top four barriers for offset adults, onset-acquired adults and adults without impairment at both waves.

For adults with impairment at both waves there is some evidence that they perceive their impairment to have affected their ability to participate in learning opportunities more than other barriers (Table 4.1). However, there does not appear to be a similar perception in the offset/onset-acquired groups. For adults with impairment at both waves, their 'health condition, illness or impairment' was the second most reported barrier, reported either at Wave One only, at Wave Two only, or at both waves. However, it did not appear in the top four most commonly reported barriers for any of the other analysis groups at either or both waves. This may be due to the number and stability of impairment(s) reported by adults with impairment at both waves.

Barriers to learning did not appear to be permanent. [In general, for all groups, a higher proportion of adults reported specific barrier types at Wave One or Wave Two only, than at both waves \(65.5 Kb Excel sheet\)](#) . However, while one barrier may only be experienced for a relatively short time (e.g. Wave One only), a new barrier may have emerged causing a person's restriction to learning to continue.

Table 4.1, Adults with impairment at both waves [1]: top four barriers to learning [2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to learning at either or both waves³

				Great Britain
Rank	Barrier at both waves	% Barrier at Wave One only	% Barrier at Wave Two only	%
1	Financial reasons (Lack of money/can't afford to)	15 Financial reasons (Lack of money/can't afford to)	24 Financial reasons (Lack of money/can't afford to)	20

2	A health condition, illness or impairment	9	A health condition, illness or impairment	16	A health condition, illness or impairment	15
3	A disability	5	A disability	13	Too busy/not enough time	11
4	Difficulty with transport	4	Difficulty with transport	13	A disability	9

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Note:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Education and training is referred to as learning throughout the table
3. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 770 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
4. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
5. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Table 4.2, Offset adults [1]: top four barriers to learning [2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to learning at either or both waves ³

				Great Britain	
Rank	Barrier at both waves	% Barrier at Wave One only	% Barrier at Wave Two only	%	
1	Financial reasons (Lack of money/can't afford to)	8	Financial reasons (Lack of money/can't afford to)	31	Financial reasons (Lack of money/can't afford to) 22
2	Too busy/not enough time	5	Too busy/not enough time	20	Too busy/not enough time 18
3	Caring responsibilities	3	No learning opportunities available	16	Lack of information 10
4	No learning opportunities available	2	Lack of help or assistance	14	Difficulty getting on a course or refused a place 6

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Education and training is referred to as learning throughout the table
3. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
4. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Table 4.3, Onset-acquired adults [1]: top four barriers to learning [2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to learning at either or both waves ³

				Great Britain	
Rank	Barrier at both waves	% Barrier at Wave One only	% Barrier at Wave Two only	%	

1	Financial reasons (Lack of money/can't afford to)	9	Financial reasons (Lack of money/can't afford to)	25	Financial reasons (Lack of money/can't afford to)	31
2	Too busy/not enough time	9	Too busy/not enough time	18	Caring responsibilities	18
3	Caring responsibilities	5	Lack of help or assistance	10	Too busy/not enough time	16
4	Lack of information	3	Caring responsibilities	8	Difficulty with transport	7

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Note:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Education and training is referred to as learning throughout the table
3. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 170 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
4. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
5. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Table 4.4, Adults without impairment at both waves [1]: top four barriers to learning [2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to learning at either or both waves ³

				Great Britain		
Rank	Barrier at both waves	%	Barrier at Wave One only	%	Barrier at Wave Two only	%
1	Financial reasons (Lack of money/can't afford to)	7	Financial reasons (Lack of money/can't afford to)	29	Financial reasons (Lack of money/can't afford to)	20
2	Too busy/not enough time	5	Too busy/not enough time	26	Too busy/not enough time	16
3	No learning opportunities available	1	Caring responsibilities	11	Lack of information	9
4	Lack of help or assistance	1	Lack of information	11	No learning opportunities available	9

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. Education and training is referred to as learning throughout the table
3. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 590 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
4. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
5. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Details of all barriers types can be found in the [data section of this publication](#). The [data can also be viewed as interactive charts](#).

Notes for 4.3 Types of Barriers Reported

1. The rankings are calculated based on the percentage of adults who reported each particular barrier at both waves, at Wave One only, or at Wave Two only, out of those adults from that particular group who had a participation restriction to learning at either or both waves

4. Background notes

1. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available by visiting www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html or from the Media Relations Office email: media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Compendium

Chapter 5 - Transport

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Release date:
10 April 2014

Next release:
To be announced

Table of contents

1. [Key findings](#)
2. [Aims of this chapter](#)
3. [Types of barriers to using motor vehicles](#)
4. [Types of barriers to using local buses](#)
5. [Types of barriers to using long-distance trains](#)
6. [Types of barriers to using taxis/minicabs](#)
7. [Background notes](#)

1 . Key findings

- 'Cost' was the most common barrier to transport in all transport types¹ regardless of an adult's impairment status. The proportion reporting 'cost' as a barrier was highest for taxis/minicabs and lowest for local buses
- A higher percentage of adults reported 'cost' as a barrier to using motor vehicles in Wave Two only than in Wave One only. This finding was not seen for other transport types and coincided with a rise in the cost of fuel and car insurance²
- For adults with impairment at both waves there is evidence that some perceived their impairment to have affected their ability to access all four transport types. This was not the case for the other analysis groups
- Specific barrier types tended to be reported by adults at either Wave One only or Wave Two only, rather than at both waves. This suggests that barriers are transient in most cases, rather than fixed

Notes

1. The four transport types included in this chapter are: motor vehicles, local buses, long-distance trains and taxis/minicabs
2. Data source: [Consumer Price Indices, January 2014](#) Office for National Statistics

2 . Aims of this chapter

As we saw in Chapter 2 adults in the LOS can be classified into four groups for analysis:

- adults with impairment at both waves
- offset adults
- onset-acquired adults
- adults without impairment at both waves

These groups reflect the diversity of [impairment status](#), in that impairment status may be stable, or may change over time. A person may have impairments at both waves (group 1) or no impairment at both waves (group 4), or they may no longer have impairments (group 2) or they acquire an impairments at Wave Two (group 3).

[Chapter 2](#) of this report explored changes in [participation restriction](#) experienced between Wave One and Wave Two. According to the LOS definition, adults who had a participation restriction in one or more life area will experience barriers. Barriers to transport vary between transport types¹; for example, 'cost' is a possible barrier to all transport types, whereas 'parking problems' only applies to motor vehicles. The barriers reported by adults may change over time. For each life area, it is also possible to see if a barrier was:

- i. reported at both waves
- ii. reported at Wave One only
- iii. reported at Wave Two only

iv. not reported at either wave

This chapter describes the types of barriers to transport experienced by working age (16 to 64) adults, who had a participation restriction at any point in the survey. For these adults the types of barriers that were reported at both waves or at either wave (groups i, ii, and iii) will be examined by group. Four transport types are analysed separately in this chapter: motor vehicles, local buses, long-distance trains and taxis/minicabs.

Notes for 5.2 Aims of this chapter

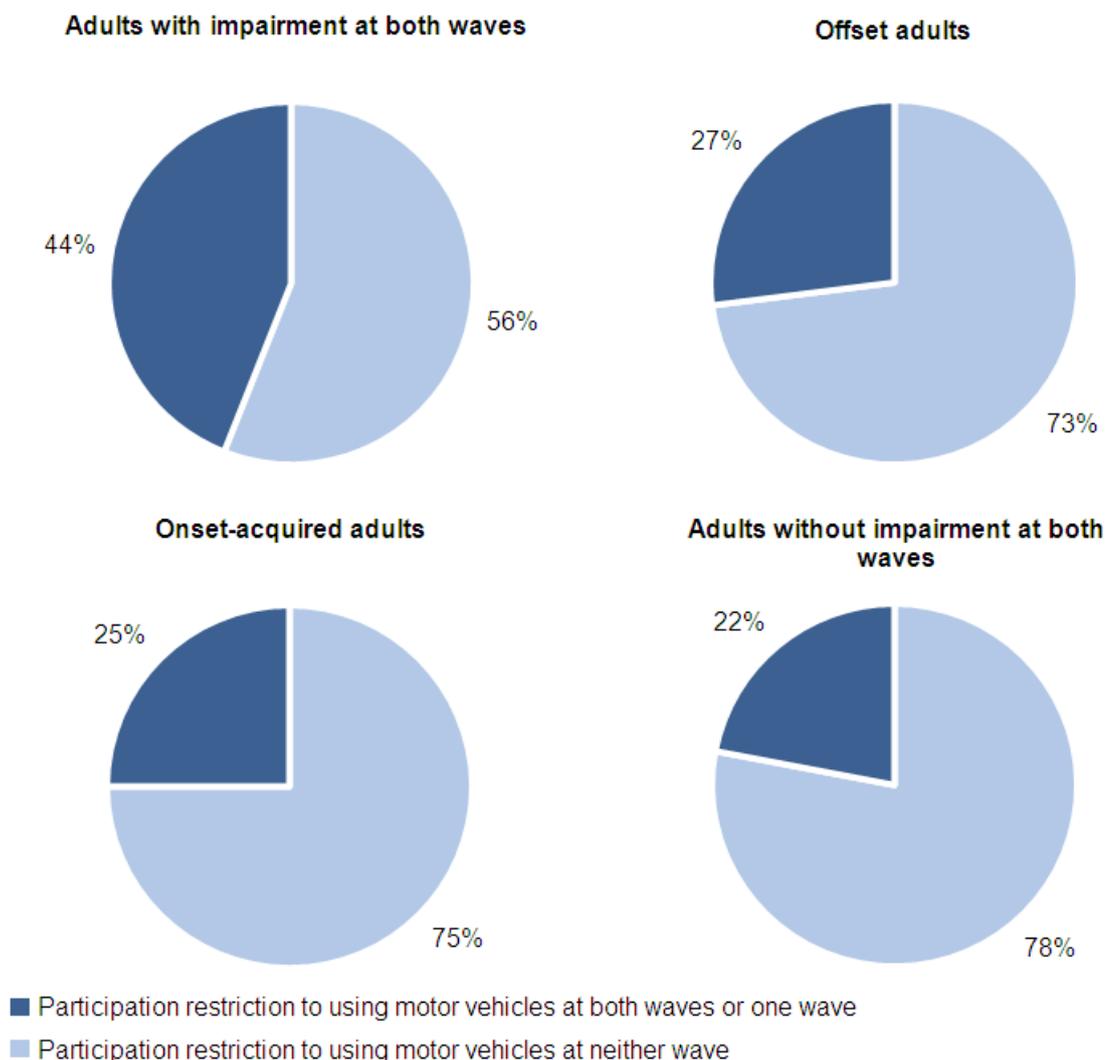
1. The four transport types included in this chapter are: motor vehicles, local buses, long-distance trains and taxis/minicabs

3 . Types of barriers to using motor vehicles

This section describes the types of barriers experienced by working age adults (16 to 64) who had a participation restriction to using a motor vehicle¹ at any point in the survey (as identified by the dark sections of the pie charts (see Figure 5.1). For these adults the types of barriers that were reported at both waves or at either wave (groups i, ii, and iii²) will be examined by group.

Figure 5.1 Percentage of working age (16 to 64) adults with a participation restriction to using motor vehicles¹, by group²

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using motor vehicles at either or both waves



Source: Life Opportunities Survey - Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. An adult had a participation restriction to using a motor vehicle if they had continuous use of a motor vehicle, but did not go out in it as much as they would have liked
2. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
3. Sample sizes have been rounded independently to the nearest 10
4. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
5. Based on weighted data

The tables presented in this chapter show the top four barriers that were reported by each group, at Wave One only, Wave Two only and both waves. The percentages reflect those who reported each barrier, out of those adults from that particular group who had a barrier to using motor vehicles at either or both waves.

Across all groups 'cost' was the most common barrier reported to using motor vehicles at Wave One only, Wave Two only and both waves. 'Parking problems' was also among the four highest ranking barriers across all groups.

For all groups, 'cost' was more frequently reported at Wave Two only than at Wave One only. This has coincided with above-inflation rises in fuel and car insurance costs over the period covered by the two waves of the survey³. This pattern was not seen for other transport types.

For adults with impairment at both waves and onset-acquired adults there is evidence that some perceived their impairment to have restricted their use of a motor vehicle. At both and either wave, 'a health condition, illness or impairment' and 'a disability' were commonly reported barriers, by adults with impairments at both waves. Similarly, onset-acquired adults also commonly reported 'a health condition, illness or impairment' at Wave Two only, but not at Wave One only or both waves. This finding was not seen for other transport types.

In addition, 'too busy/not enough time' and 'vehicle not available when needed' tended to be featured in the top four ranking barriers for offset adults, onset-acquired adults and adults without impairment at both waves.

Table 5.1, Adults with impairment at both waves[1]: top four barriers to using motor vehicles[2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using motor vehicles at either or both waves³

Great Britain

Rank	Barrier at both waves	% Barrier at Wave One only	% Barrier at Wave Two only	%
1	Cost	21 Cost	16 Cost	28
2	A health condition, illness or impairment	9 A health condition, illness or impairment	12 A health condition, illness or impairment	15
3	A disability	6 Parking problems	7 A disability	10
4	Parking problems	3 A disability	7 Parking problems	7

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. An adult had a participation restriction to using motor vehicles if they had continuous use of a motor vehicle, but did not go out in it as much as they would have liked
3. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 740 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
4. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
5. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Table 5.2, Offset adults[1]: top four barriers to using motor vehicles[2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using motor vehicles at either or both waves³

Great Britain

Rank	Barrier at both waves	% Barrier at Wave One only	% Barrier at Wave Two only	%
1	Cost	15 Cost	25 Cost	29

2	Too busy/not enough time	2	Vehicle not available when needed	9	Too busy/not enough time	10
3	Parking problems	2	Too busy/not enough time	8	Caring responsibilities	6
4	Vehicle not available when needed	2	Parking problems	8	Vehicle not available when needed	5

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. An adult had a participation restriction to using motor vehicles if they had continuous use of a motor vehicle, but did not go out in it as much as they would have liked
3. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 300 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
4. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
5. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Table 5.3, Onset-acquired adults[1]: top four barriers to using motor vehicles[2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using motor vehicles at either or both waves³

				Great Britain		
Rank	Barrier at both waves	%	Barrier at Wave One only	%	Barrier at Wave Two only	%
1	Cost	19	Cost	18	Cost	38
2	Too busy/not enough time	3	Vehicle not available when needed	6	A health condition, illness or impairment	11
3	Parking problems	3	Too busy/not enough time	6	Parking problems	8
4	n/a	n/a	Parking problems	3	Vehicle not available when needed	8

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Note:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. An adult had a participation restriction to using motor vehicles if they had continuous use of a motor vehicle, but did not go out in it as much as they would have liked
3. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 200 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
4. n/a - not applicable; there were no other barriers reported by 0.5% or over
5. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
6. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Table 5.4, Adults without impairment at both waves[1]: top four barriers to using motor vehicles[2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using motor vehicles at either or both waves³

				Great Britain	
Rank	Barrier at both waves	% Barrier at Wave One only	% Barrier at Wave Two only		
1	Cost	11 Cost	16 Cost	26	
2	Too busy/not enough time	2 Too busy/not enough time	8 Too busy/not enough time	10	
3	Vehicle not available when needed	2 Vehicle not available when needed	6 Vehicle not available when needed	8	
4	Parking problems	1 Parking problems	5 Parking problems	6	

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. An adult had a participation restriction to using motor vehicles if they had continuous use of a motor vehicle, but did not go out in it as much as they would have liked
3. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 790 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
4. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
5. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Details of all barriers types can be found in the [data section of this publication](#). The [data can also be viewed as interactive charts](#).

Notes for 5.3 Types of barriers to using motor vehicles

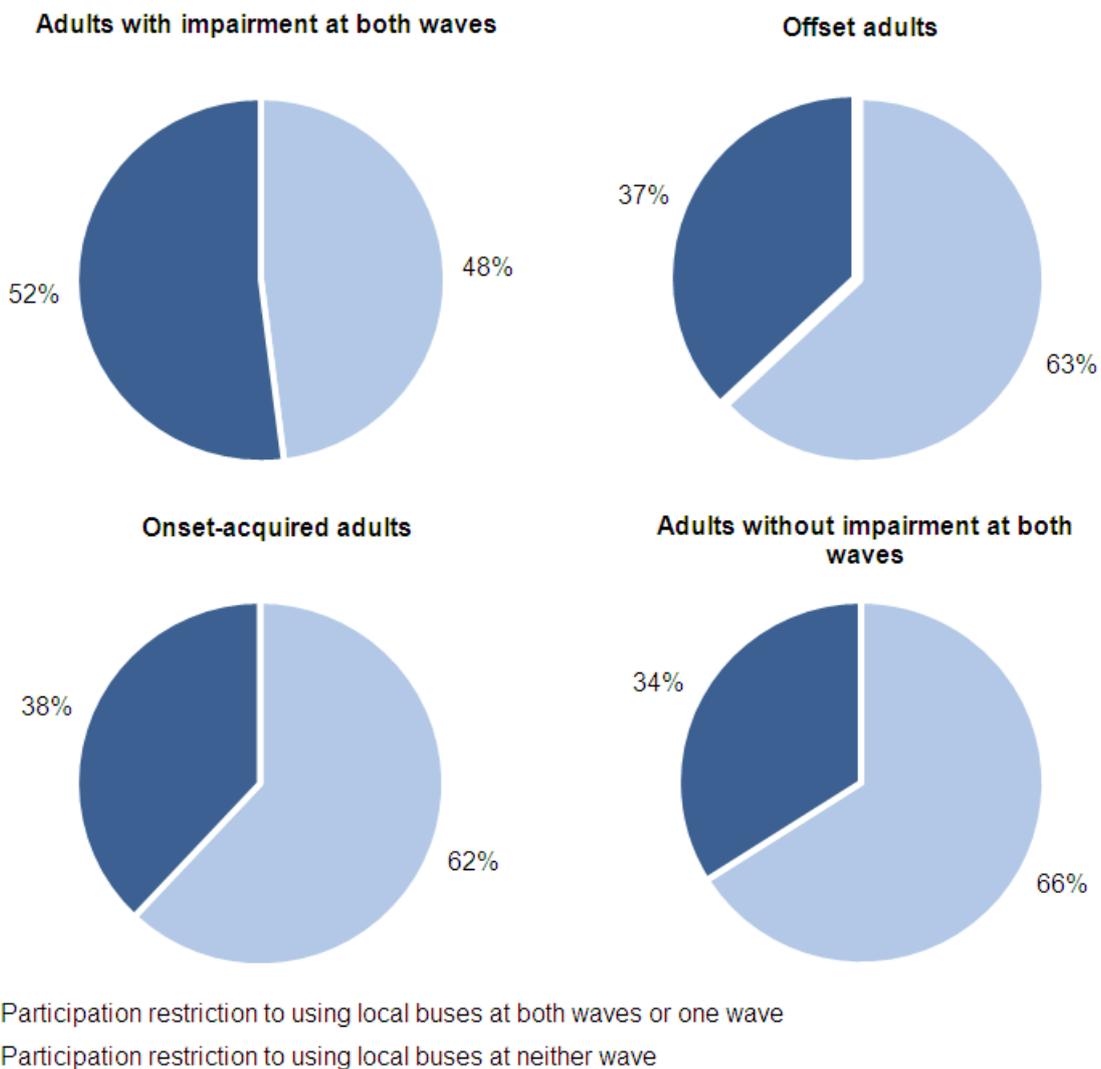
1. An adult had a participation restriction to using a motor vehicle if they had continuous use of a motor vehicle, but did not go out in it as much as they would have liked
2. Section 5.2 aims of this chapter provides more details
3. Data source: [Consumer Price Indices, January 2014](#) Office for National Statistics

4 . Types of barriers to using local buses

This section describes the types of barriers experienced by working age adults (16 to 64) who had a participation restriction to using local buses¹ at any point in the survey (as identified by the dark sections of the pie charts (see Figure 5.2)). For these adults the types of barriers that were reported at both waves or at either wave (groups i, ii, and iii²) will be examined by group.

Figure 5.2 Percentage of working age (16 to 64) adults with a participation restriction to using local buses¹, by group²

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using local buses at either or both waves



Source: Life Opportunities Survey - Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. An adult had a participation restriction to using local buses if they had not used local buses as much as they would have liked to in the last 12 months
2. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
3. Sample sizes have been rounded independently to the nearest 10
4. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
5. Based on weighted data

The tables presented in this chapter show the top four barriers that were reported by each group, at Wave One only, Wave Two only and both waves. The percentages reflect those who reported each barrier, out of those adults from that particular group who had a barrier to using local buses at either or both waves.

'Cost' was the most reported barrier at Wave One only and Wave Two only for all four groups. At both waves, however, 'transport unavailable' was the most reported barrier by offset adults, adults without impairment at both waves and onset-acquired adults. A smaller percentage reported 'cost' as a barrier to local buses across all groups than for other transport types. This is unsurprising due to the comparatively low cost of travel by local bus, compared with motor vehicles, long-distance trains and taxis/minicabs.

Offset adults, onset-acquired adults and adults without impairment at both waves reported similar common barriers at Wave One only and Wave Two only. The four most common barriers were 'cost', 'transport unavailable', 'too busy/not enough time' and 'delay and disruption to the service'. Adults with impairment at both waves reported similar common barriers to other groups, but also reported 'a health condition, illness or impairment' and 'a disability' as barriers to local buses, suggesting some perceived their impairment to be a barrier to using local buses.

Table 5.5, Adults with impairment at both waves[1]: top four barriers to using local buses[2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using local buses at either or both waves³

				Great Britain
Rank	Barrier at both waves	% Barrier at Wave One only	% Barrier at Wave Two only	%
1	A health condition, illness or impairment	8 Cost	15 Cost	15
2	Cost	8 A health condition, illness or impairment	13 A health condition, illness or impairment	12
3	A disability	6 Transport unavailable	10 A disability	11
4	Transport unavailable	5 A disability	10 Transport unavailable	8

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. An adult had a participation restriction to using local buses if they had not used local buses as much as they would have liked to in the last 12 months
3. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 1,280 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
4. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
5. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Table 5.6, Offset adults[1]: top four barriers to using local buses[2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using local buses at either or both waves³

				Great Britain
Rank	Barrier at both waves	% Barrier at Wave One only	% Barrier at Wave Two only	%
1	Transport unavailable	7 Cost	20 Cost	13

2	Cost	5	Transport unavailable	15	Transport unavailable	10
3	Delay and disruption to service	2	Too busy/not enough time	11	Delay and disruption to service	7
4	Lack of information	2	Delay and disruption to service	11	Too busy/not enough time	6

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Note:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. An adult had a participation restriction to using local buses if they had not used local buses as much as they would have liked to in the last 12 months
3. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 550 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
4. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
5. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Table 5.7, Onset-acquired adults[1]: top four barriers to using local buses[2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using local buses at either or both waves³

				Great Britain	
Rank	Barrier at both waves	% Barrier at Wave One only	% Barrier at Wave Two only	%	
1	Transport unavailable	11 Cost	20 Cost	13	
2	Cost	10 Too busy/not enough time	12 Too busy/not enough time	11	
3	Too busy/not enough time	2 Transport unavailable	11 Delay and disruption to service	10	
4	Anxiety/lack of confidence	2 Delay and disruption to service	9 Transport unavailable	10	

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. An adult had a participation restriction to using local buses if they had not used local buses as much as they would have liked to in the last 12 months
3. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 340 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
4. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
5. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Table 5.8, Adults without impairment at both waves[1]: top four barriers to using local buses[2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using local buses at either or both waves³

				Great Britain
Rank	Barrier at both waves	% Barrier at Wave One only	% Barrier at Wave Two only	%
1	Transport unavailable	9	Transport unavailable	16
2	Cost	6	Cost	13
3	Too busy/not enough time	2	Too busy/not enough time	9
4	Delay and disruption to service	2	Delay and disruption to service	7

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. An adult had a participation restriction to using local buses if they had not used local buses as much as they would have liked to in the last 12 months
3. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 1,500 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
4. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
5. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Details of all barriers types can be found in the [data section of this publication](#). The [data can also be viewed as interactive charts](#).

Notes for 5.4 Types of barriers to using local buses

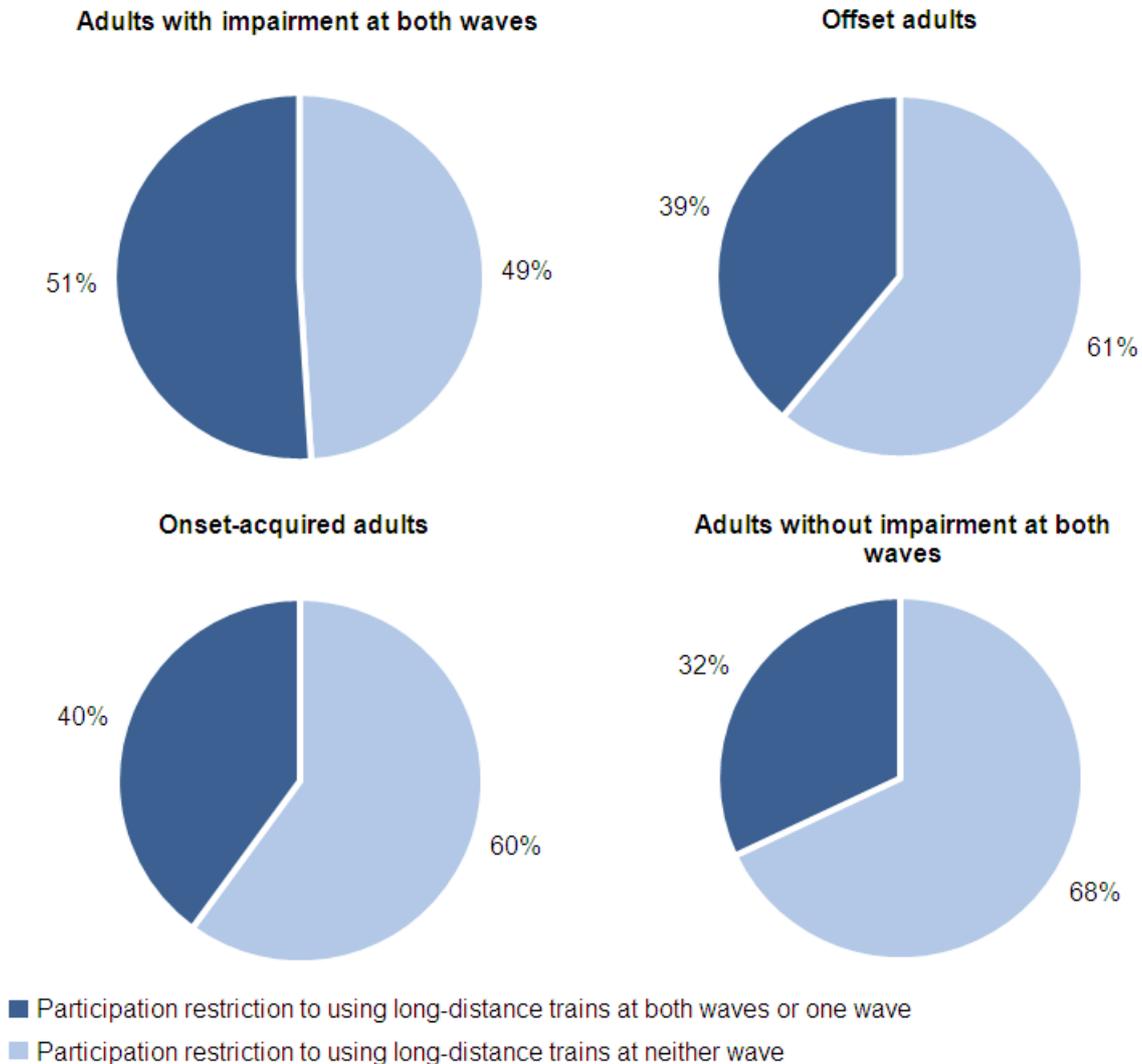
1. An adult had a participation restriction to using a local bus if they had not used local buses as much as they would have liked to in the last 12 months
2. Section 5.2 aims of this chapter provides more details

5 . Types of barriers to using long-distance trains

This section describes the types of barriers experienced by working age adults (16 to 64) who had a participation restriction to using long-distance trains¹ at any point in the survey (as identified by the dark sections of the pie charts (see Figure 5.3)). For these adults the types of barriers that were reported at both waves or at either wave (groups i, ii, and iii²) will be examined by group.

Figure 5.3 Percentage of working age (16 to 64) adults with a participation restriction to long-distance trains¹, by group²

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using long-distance trains at either or both waves



Source: Life Opportunities Survey - Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. An adult had a participation restriction to using long-distance trains if they had not used long-distance trains as much as they would have liked to in the last 12 months
2. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
3. Sample sizes have been rounded independently to the nearest 10
4. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
5. Based on weighted data

The tables presented in this chapter show the top four barriers that were reported by each group, at Wave One only, Wave Two only and both waves. The percentages reflect those who reported each barrier, out of those adults from that particular group who had a barrier to using long-distance trains at either or both waves.

Across all groups 'cost' was the most common barrier reported to long-distance trains at Wave One only, Wave Two only and both waves. This is against a backdrop of above-inflation rises in the cost of train travel every year since 2004³.

There is evidence to show that some adults with impairment at both waves perceived their impairment restricted their use of long-distance trains, whereas this was not the case for onset-acquired and offset adults. This may be due to the number and stability of impairment(s) reported by the impairment at both waves [group](#). Adults with impairment at both waves commonly reported 'a health condition, illness or impairment' and 'a disability' at Wave One only, Wave Two only and both waves, while other groups tended to report 'too busy/not enough time', 'delay and disruption to service' and 'transport unavailable'.

Table 5.9, Adults with impairment at both waves[1]: top four barriers to using long-distance trains[2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using long-distance trains at either or both waves³

				Great Britain
Rank	Barrier at both waves	% Barrier at Wave One only	% Barrier at Wave Two only	%
1	Cost	15 Cost	24 Cost	23
2	A health condition, illness or impairment	4 A health condition, illness or impairment	13 A health condition, illness or impairment	11
3	A disability	4 Anxiety/lack of confidence	9 A disability	9
4	Anxiety/lack of confidence	4 A disability	8 Difficulty getting to stop or station	7

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. An adult had a participation restriction to using long-distance trains if they had not used long-distance trains as much as they would have liked to in the last 12 months
3. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 1,260 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
4. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
5. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Table 5.10, Offset adults[1]: top four barriers to using long-distance trains[2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using long-distance trains at either or both waves³

				Great Britain
Rank	Barrier at both waves	% Barrier at Wave One only	% Barrier at Wave Two only	%

1	Cost	15	Cost	32	Cost	25
2	Transport unavailable	2	Too busy/not enough time	7	Transport unavailable	7
3	Too busy/not enough time	1	Delay and disruption to service	6	Too busy/not enough time	5
4	Anxiety/lack of confidence	1	Transport unavailable	5	Overcrowding	3

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. An adult had a participation restriction to using long-distance trains if they had not used long-distance trains as much as they would have liked to in the last 12 months
3. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 560 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
4. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
5. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Table 5.11, Onset-acquired adults[1]: top four barriers to using long-distance trains[2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using long-distance trains at either or both waves³

						Great Britain
Rank	Barrier at both waves	%	Barrier at Wave One only	%	Barrier at Wave Two only	%
1	Cost	11	Cost	35	Cost	32
2	Anxiety/lack of confidence	2	Transport unavailable	7	Overcrowding	6
3	Delay and disruption to service	1	Too busy/not enough time	4	Anxiety/lack of confidence	5
4	Difficulty getting to stop or station	1	Overcrowding	3	Transport unavailable	5

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. An adult had a participation restriction to using long-distance trains if they had not used long-distance trains as much as they would have liked to in the last 12 months
3. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 330 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
4. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers

5. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Table 5.12, Adults without impairment at both waves[1]: top four barriers to using long-distance trains[2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using long-distance trains at either or both waves³

				Great Britain	
Rank	Barrier at both waves	% Barrier at Wave One only	% Barrier at Wave Two only		
1	Cost	11	36	26	
2	Transport unavailable	1	6	5	
3	Overcrowding	1	6	4	
4	Too busy/not enough time	1	6	3	

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. An adult had a participation restriction to using long-distance trains if they had not used long-distance trains as much as they would have liked to in the last 12 months
3. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 1,320 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
4. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
5. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Details of all barriers types can be found in the [data section of this publication](#). The [data can also be viewed as interactive charts](#).

Notes for 5.5 Types of barriers to using long-distance trains

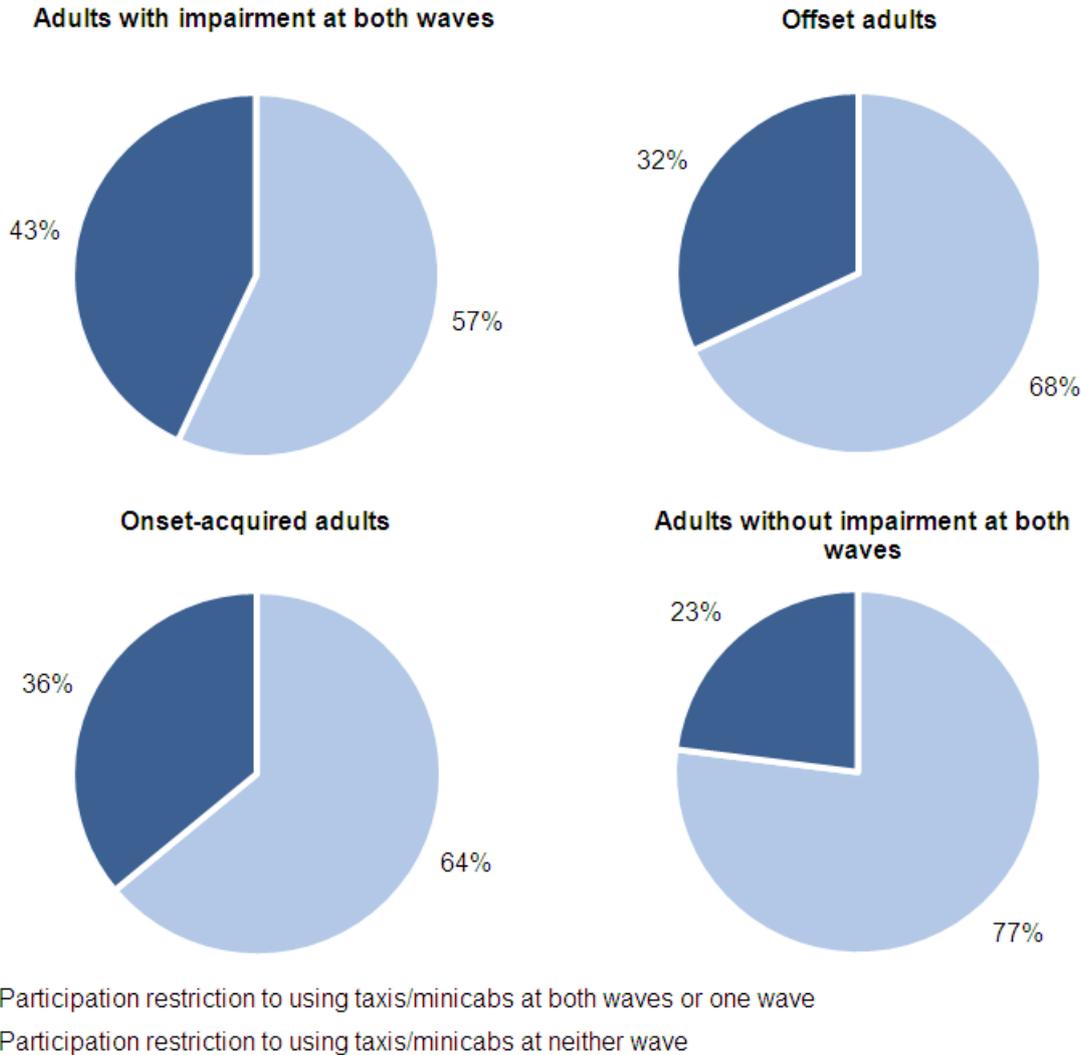
1. An adult had a participation restriction to using a long-distance train if they had not used long-distance trains as much as they would have liked to in the last 12 months
2. Section 5.2 aims of this chapter provides more details
3. Data source: [Consumer Price Indices, January 2014](#) Office for National Statistics

6 . Types of barriers to using taxis/minicabs

This section describes the types of barriers experienced by working age adults (16 to 64) who had a participation restriction to using taxis/minicabs¹ at any point in the survey (as identified by the dark sections of the pie charts (see Figure 5.4)). For these adults the types of barriers that were reported at both waves or at either wave (groups i, ii, and iii) will be examined by group.

Figure 5.4 Percentage of working age (16 to 64) adults with a participation restriction to taxis /minicabs¹, by group²

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using taxis/minicabs at either or both waves



Source: Life Opportunities Survey - Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. An adult had a participation restriction to using taxis/minicabs if they had not used taxis/minicabs as much as they would have liked to in the last 12 months
2. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
3. Sample sizes have been rounded independently to the nearest 10
4. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1
5. Based on weighted data

The tables presented in this chapter show the top four barriers that were reported by each group, at Wave One only, Wave Two only and both waves. The percentages reflect those who reported each barrier, out of those adults from that particular group who had a barrier to using taxis/minicabs at either or both waves.

As in other transport types, 'cost' was the most common barrier reported to using taxis/minicabs for all the groups, at both waves, and at Wave One. A higher proportion of adults with barriers to taxis/minicabs reported 'cost' as a barrier than for other transport types.

The second most common barrier reported by adults with impairment at both waves was 'a health condition, illness or impairment' and 'a disability', whereas other groups did not report this barrier. This suggests, as in other transport types, that some adults with impairment at both waves perceived their impairment to be a barrier to using taxis/minicabs, whereas this is not found in the offset or onset-acquired groups.

Table 5.13, Adults with impairment at both waves[1]: top four barriers to using taxis/minicabs[2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using taxis/minicabs at either or both waves³

				Great Britain
Rank	Barrier at both waves	% Barrier at Wave One only	% Barrier at Wave Two only	%
1	Cost	26 Cost	31 Cost	34
2	A disability	1 A health condition, illness or impairment	6 A health condition, illness or impairment	4
3	A health condition, illness or impairment	1 Anxiety/lack of confidence	4 A disability	3
4	Anxiety/lack of confidence	1 A disability	4 Difficulty getting in or out of the transport	3

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. An adult had a participation restriction to using taxis/minicabs if they had not used taxis/minicabs as much as they would have liked to in the last 12 months
3. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 1,010 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
4. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
5. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Table 5.14, Offset adults[1]: top four barriers to using taxis/minicabs[2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using taxis/minicabs at either or both waves³

				Great Britain
Rank	Barrier at both waves	% Barrier at Wave One only	% Barrier at Wave Two only	%

1	Cost	21	Cost	38	Cost	33
2	n/a	n	Transport unavailable /a	2	Transport unavailable	3
3	n/a	n	Attitudes of staff /a	1	Anxiety/lack of confidence	2
4	n/a	n	A health condition, illness or /a impairment	1	Difficulty getting in or out of the transport	1

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. An adult had a participation restriction to using taxis/minicabs if they had not used taxis/minicabs as much as they would have liked to in the last 12 months
3. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 440 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
4. n/a - not applicable; there were no other barriers reported by 0.5% or over
5. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
6. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Table 5.15, Onset-acquired adults[1]: top four barriers to using taxis/minicabs[2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using taxis/minicabs at either or both waves³

					Great Britain	
Rank	Barrier at both waves	%	Barrier at Wave One only	%	Barrier at Wave Two only	%
1	Cost	16	Cost	38	Cost	41
2	n/a	n/a	Attitudes of staff	1	Transport unavailable	3
3	n/a	n/a	Transport unavailable	1	Anxiety/lack of confidence	2
4	n/a	n/a	Anxiety/lack of confidence	1	Difficulty getting in or out of the transport	1

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. An adult had a participation restriction to using taxis/minicabs if they had not used taxis/minicabs as much as they would have liked to in the last 12 months
3. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 280 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
4. n/a - not applicable; there were no other barriers reported by 0.5% or over

5. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
6. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Table 5.16, Adults without impairment at both waves[1]: top four barriers to using taxis/minicabs[2], by experience of barrier

Adults aged between 16 and 64, who experienced a participation restriction to using taxis/minicabs at either or both waves³

						Great Britain
Rank	Barrier at both waves	%	Barrier at Wave One only	%	Barrier at Wave Two only	%
1	Cost	21	Cost	33	Cost	40
2	n/a	n/a	Transport unavailable	2	Transport unavailable	1
3	n/a	n/a	Attitudes of staff	1	Too busy/not enough time	1
4	n/a	n/a	Overcrowding	1	Fear of crime	1

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave Two Longitudinal Dataset, Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Please refer to definition of longitudinal analysis groups in the Introduction of Life Opportunities Survey - Understanding disability Wave Two Part II report
2. An adult had a participation restriction to using taxis/minicabs if they had not used taxis/minicabs as much as they would have liked to in the last 12 months
3. Based on weighted data and a sample size of 950 (the unweighted sample figure has been rounded to the nearest 10)
4. n/a - not applicable; there were no other barriers reported by 0.5% or over
5. Please see reference tables for data for all barriers
6. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1

Details of all barriers types can be found in the [data section of this publication](#). The [data can also be viewed as interactive charts](#).

Notes for 5.6 Types of barriers to using taxis/minicabs

1. An adult had a participation restriction to using a taxi/minicab if they had not used a taxi/minicab as much as they would have liked to in the last 12 months

7. Background notes

1. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available by visiting www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html or from the Media Relations Office email: media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Chapter 6 - Conclusion

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Release date:
10 April 2014

Next release:
To be announced

Table of contents

1. [What was this Report About?](#)
2. [What were the Main Findings?](#)
3. [What did the Findings Suggest?](#)
4. [Considerations and Future Directions](#)
5. [Background notes](#)

1 . What was this Report About?

This report sets out to examine how adults were restricted from participating in various life areas. In the LOS, adults are said to experience a participation restriction in a life area if they reported at least one barrier for that area.

The analysis focused on four groups of adults defined by whether they had impairment(s) in the two waves of the LOS. The groups are described as: adults with impairment at both waves, offset adults, onset-acquired adults and adults without impairment at both waves. [Changes between waves](#) were examined in terms of participation restriction experienced by the four groups in the eight life areas¹. Following this, we looked at the barriers reported by these groups in the areas of [work, education and training, and transport](#)²; and whether these barriers were reported at both waves, or at only one of the waves. In addition to highlighting the specific barriers adults were reporting in these areas, these analyses also served as examples of how longitudinal analysis could be carried out using LOS data.

Notes for 6.1 What was this report about?

1. These analyses included all adults aged 16 and over
2. These analyses focused on working age (16 to 64) adults

2 . What were the Main Findings?

1. Most adults were restricted from participating in at least one life area, regardless of whether they had impairment(s) or not

Most adults experienced a [participation restriction](#) in at least one of the eight life areas at both waves of the survey – with transport and leisure being the two areas where most adults experienced a restriction. [Only a very small percentage of adults](#) did not have a participation restriction in any of the eight life areas in both waves.

However, if we look at each life area individually, with the exception of transport and leisure, most adults did not experience a participation restriction at either wave.

2. Having impairment(s) was associated to being restricted from participating in areas of life

[Our findings showed an association between having impairment\(s\) and experiencing a participation restriction.](#)

When looking at all life areas together, adults with impairment at both waves were restricted in more life areas, compared to those without impairment at both [waves](#). Offset adults, who no longer had impairment(s) at Wave Two, tended to experience fewer participation restrictions at Wave Two. The opposite was true for onset-acquired adults. These adults, who had acquired impairment(s) at Wave Two, were likely to experience more participation restrictions at Wave Two.

The impairment(s) or a disability may also become a barrier which restricted adults from participating in some life areas. For example, 'a health condition, illness or impairment' was the most often reported barrier for adults with impairment at both waves in the life area of work. It was also a common barrier reported at Wave One only by offset adults, and reported at Wave Two only by onset-acquired adults.

3. Most commonly-reported barriers related to costs, lack of time, and family responsibilities

Most barriers reported fell into common themes relating to cost ('financial reasons/lack of money/can't afford to'), lack of time ('too busy/not enough time'), and family or caring responsibilities. Generally, cost-related barriers were the main barriers reported to education and training, and transport, whereas 'family responsibilities' was the main barrier reported to work.

As mentioned in section two, unlike other groups, adults with impairment at both waves tended to report impairment-based barriers in addition to the main barriers listed above. Indeed, impairment-based barriers seemed to be more relevant for adults with impairment at both waves than other barriers that commonly affected other groups, such as 'family responsibilities' in work, 'too busy/not enough time' in education and training, and 'transport unavailable' in some modes of transport.

In contrast, impairment-based barriers seemed to matter less for offset and onset-acquired adults, who were more likely to report barriers relating to cost, time and family responsibilities. In this sense, the barriers reported by offset and onset-acquired adults were generally more similar to those reported by adults without impairment at both waves.

4. Barriers may change over time

Barriers tended to be reported at only one of the waves, rather than consistently at both waves. This suggests that barriers and restriction were likely to be influenced by changes in people's situation and circumstances.

However, there were some exceptions. For example, most adults who were economically inactive at both waves tended to report 'family responsibilities' at both waves as their reason for not working or seeking work.

5. External factors may influence the types of barriers reported

External factors that affect society as a whole may underlie some of the barriers reported for certain life areas. For example, 'lack of job opportunities' was a common barrier reported for work. The UK economy experienced a downturn in 2008/09, resulting in higher unemployment in the [UK labour market](#) (compared with pre-downturn figures). Adults in the LOS reported 'lack of job opportunities' as a barrier limiting the type and amount of paid work they could do. This may be a reflection of a shortage of jobs that were suitable or available for the workforce during this post-downturn period.

The economic climate in the UK between 2009 and 2012 might also be behind the reporting of financial reasons /cost as a common barrier in education and training, and transport¹.

Cost as a barrier to using motor vehicles might be associated more directly to the rising cost of fuel and car insurance. This barrier to using motor vehicles was reported more often at Wave Two only than at Wave One only, and was consistent with the way fuel and car insurance prices increased² over the period covered by the two waves of the survey.

In modes of public transport, 'transport unavailable' was also a commonly reported barrier, affecting most groups regardless of their impairment status.

6. Modified hours and tax credits were most commonly reported by people as measures which helped, or would help them to work

This report also examined enablers, or measures which have helped, or would enable people to work. Most adults did not report any enablers, but when reported, measures such as modified hours and tax credits were the

most common responses. These measures could be seen as a means to ease family/caring responsibilities. It is important to bear in mind that different reasons may lie behind these reported enablers. 'Modified or reduced hours' might have been reported by adults with impairment at both waves to ease the barrier posed by their impairment, as well as a means to manage family/caring responsibilities.

Notes for 6.2 What were the Main Findings?

1. For changes in household income see the [Households Below Average Income 2013 report](#).
2. Data source: [Consumer Price Indices, January 2014 time series, Office for National Statistics](#).

3 . What did the Findings Suggest?

Being restricted to participating fully in various areas of life is a common experience shared by nearly all adults in Great Britain.

This report provided evidence of an association between having impairment(s) and being restricted from participating in areas of life. Having impairment(s) seemed to increase the extent of restriction experienced, and also created impairment-based barriers. All adults, regardless of impairment status, were affected by similar barriers relating to cost, not having enough time, having family/caring responsibilities and services not being available. However, an impairment-based barrier was often more relevant for adults with impairment at both waves.

This report also highlighted the dynamic nature of barriers. Most barriers were reported at either Wave One only or Wave Two only, rather than consistently at both waves. In the LOS Wave Two Report Part I, we demonstrated the dynamic nature of impairments, with people moving in and out of impairment over time. Similarly, in this report, we showed the extent of change in people's experiences of barriers to participation. It is clear that being able to participate fully in areas of life is affected by individuals' circumstances (responsibilities to the family, not having enough time, having impairments), as well as societal factors relating to the economy (rising costs, lack of job opportunities) and unavailability of services (in public transport).

4 . Considerations and Future Directions

It is important to bear in mind that the groups included in our longitudinal analyses consisted of a diverse group of adults with respect to the types and severity of impairments they reported. As such, a simple picture of the relationship between impairment and restriction to participation is unlikely to emerge. Nonetheless, this report demonstrated one method of examining changes in restriction and barriers reported, and how they could be considered in parallel with changes or stability in impairment status over time.

Wave Three of the LOS will be completed in September 2014. The Wave Three questionnaire includes new questions exploring the reasons for impairment onset and offset, as well as questions on enablers – the reasons why barriers are no longer reported, after being reported in the previous wave. Responses to these questions, along with an additional wave of data, will further enhance our understanding of the relationship between impairment and restriction to participation.

5. Background notes

1. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available by visiting www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html or from the Media Relations Office email: media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk