

Housing

Key facts from the Life Opportunities Survey - Wave one results, 2009/11(1)

The Life Opportunities Survey (LOS) is a large-scale longitudinal survey of disability in Great Britain. Results from the full first wave of the survey were published on the 8th December 2011 and the information below presents some of the key findings from this report. The report and the key findings below update the interim findings that were published in December 2010 based on the first half of wave one interviews.

The information below explores the accessibility of different rooms within the home for adults aged 16 and over.

Accessibility of different rooms within households

As seen in Table 1, the most common room that adults with impairment(2) had difficulty accessing was the bedroom (66 per cent). 56 per cent of adults with impairment had difficulty getting into the toilet/bathroom. The rooms that were least reported by adults with impairment as having difficulty accessing were the kitchen and the living area (11 per cent and 9 per cent respectively).

The findings were similar when using the Equality Act definition of disability(2).

Table 1: Rooms adults had difficulty accessing by impairment status, 2009/11

| Room | Percentage of adults without impairment | Percentage of adults with impairment |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Kitchen | 9 | 11 |
| Bedroom | 43 | 66 |
| Living area | 7 | 9 |
| Toilet/Bathroom | 28 | 56 |
| Other | 36 | 18 |

Source: Life Opportunities Survey Wave One Results, 2009/11

Barriers to accessing rooms within own home

The most common barrier to accessing rooms within their own home for adults with impairment was 'stairs, lack of ramps/stair lift' (52 per cent). Reasons related to a health condition, illness or impairment and a disability were also given by adults with impairment (51 per cent and 40 per cent respectively).

1 http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/los/index.php?page=los_wor

2 Please refer to the Introduction of the Life Opportunities Survey Wave one report, 2009/11, for the definitions of impairment status and Equality Act disability status.

Barriers to getting in or out of the home

48 per cent of adults with impairment experienced difficulty getting into or out of their own home due to stairs or lack of ramps/stair lift. Lack of handrails and uneven floor levels were also reported as barriers (10 per cent and 9 per cent respectively). Reasons related to a health condition, illness or impairment and a disability were also given by adults with impairment (54 per cent and 39 per cent respectively).