

Scotland's Census 2011: People with a learning disability or developmental disorder

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A National Statistics publication for Scotland

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs.



Introduction

In collaboration with National Records of Scotland, the Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory (SLDO)¹ aims to investigate demographic characteristics of the populations of people with learning disabilities and developmental disorders living in Scotland and identified through Scotland's Census 2011. The objective is to make comparisons with trends observed in the general population and identify any patterns of vulnerabilities or inequalities for people with learning disabilities and developmental disorders.

SLDO is funded by the Scottish Government to help build understanding of the causes of poor health and health inequalities experienced by people with learning disabilities and autism.

Data collected on people with learning disabilities and developmental disorders will be analysed at Scotland, council area and health board areas. Amongst many other variables of interest, SLDO is analysing data on long-term health conditions, general health, age, sex, ethnic group, country of birth, employment and housing. Data will be tabulated separately for each council area and health board and will be presented graphically on the SLDO website in due course.

This analytical note focuses on the following variables in relation to people with a learning disability or developmental disorder (click for link to variable metadata):

[Nature of Health Condition](#)

[General Health](#)

[Long-term illness, health problem or disability](#)

[Long-term health condition: number of conditions](#)

[Combined Management and Client Type](#)

[Age](#)

[Sex](#)

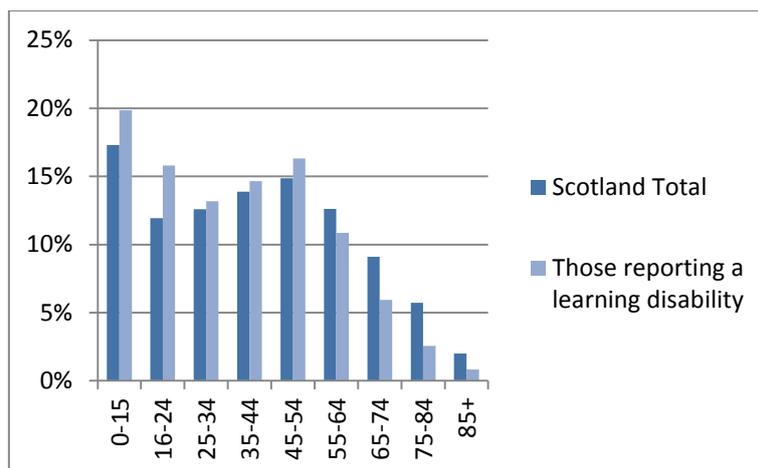
The supporting tables for the analysis (tables AT_298_2011 to AT_317_2011) are available in the Data Warehouse of the Scotland's Census website.

¹ The Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory is part of the Institute of Health and Wellbeing at the University of Glasgow.
<http://www.gla.ac.uk/researchinstitutes/healthwellbeing/research/sldo/>
<http://www.gla.ac.uk/researchinstitutes/healthwellbeing/>

Key Points

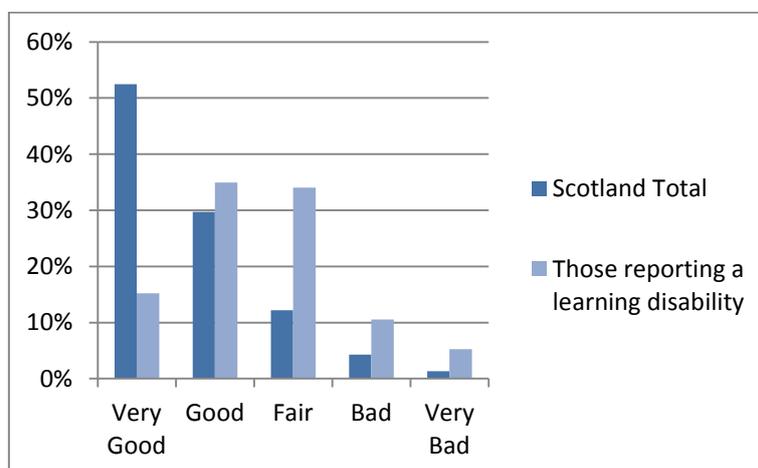
Learning Disabilities

- 26,300 people in Scotland reported that they had a learning disability: 15,100 males (57.5 per cent) and 11,200 females (42.5 per cent).
- The chart below shows the distribution across age bands for individuals who reported a learning disability compared with the distribution for the total population.



Source: Table AT_298_2011

- The general health distribution of individuals who reported a learning disability compared with that of the total population is as follows:



Source: Table AT_304_2011

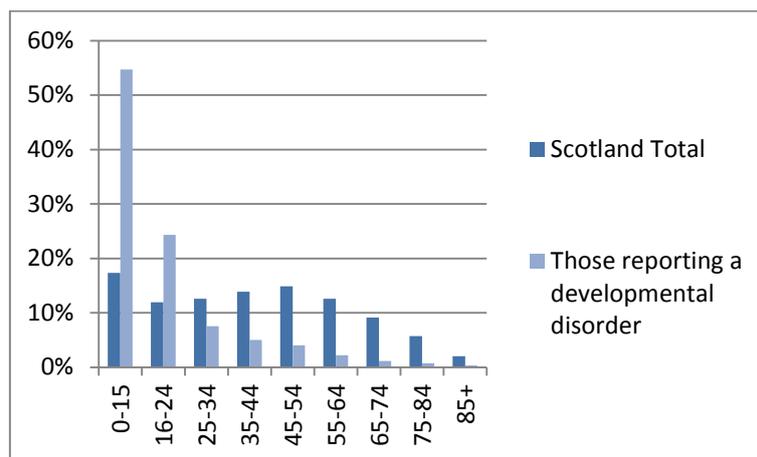
- 3,300 people aged 16 and over who reported a learning disability lived in communal establishments. 73.9 per cent of these were in adult care homes² compared with only 37.9 per cent of people reporting no learning disability.

² In addition to care homes, this category also includes 'Medical and care establishments: Local authority: Other homes', 'Medical and care establishments: Registered Social Landlord (Housing Association): Home or hostel', and 'Medical and care establishments: Registered Social Landlord (Housing Association): Sheltered housing only'.

- Over 20 per cent (5,700) of people who reported that they had a learning disability reported that they also had a developmental disorder.

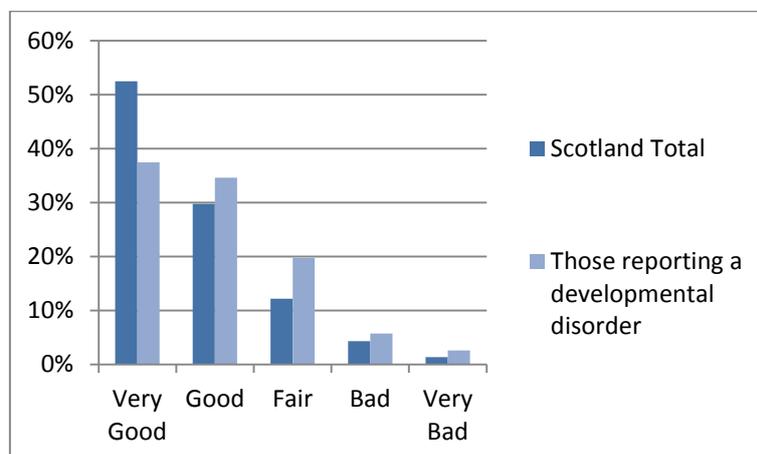
Developmental Disorders

- 31,700 people in Scotland reported that they had a developmental disorder: 24,500 males (77.2 per cent) and 7,200 females (22.8 per cent).
- The chart below shows the distribution across age bands for individuals who reported a developmental disorder compared with the distribution for the total population:



Source: Table AT_308_2011

- The general health distribution of individuals who reported a developmental disorder compared with that of the total population is as follows:



Source: Table AT_314_2011

- 1,000 people aged 16 and over who reported a developmental disorder lived in communal establishments. 44.5 per cent of these were in adult care homes³ compared with 39.0 per cent of people reporting no developmental disorder.
- 18 per cent (5,700) of people who reported that they had a developmental disorder reported that they also had a learning disability.

³ See footnote 2.

Background Notes

General

1. National Records of Scotland⁴ (NRS) is responsible for carrying out the 2011 Census in Scotland. Simultaneous but separate censuses took place in England & Wales and Northern Ireland. These were run by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) respectively.
2. The census provides estimates of the characteristics of all people and households in Scotland on census day, 27 March 2011.
3. In Scotland, the aim of the 2011 Census was to achieve a full census return for all people who were usually resident in Scotland for six months or more. In 2011, a full census return was therefore required for people from outside the UK who had stayed or intended to stay in the UK for a total of six months or more. Anyone with a permanent UK address who was outside the UK on census day was also to be included in the census questionnaire for their UK address, if they intended to be outside the UK for less than 12 months. This is defined as the **population base for enumeration**. The **main outputs population base** for the 2011 Census statistics is defined to be usual residents of the UK, that is anyone who, on census day, was in the UK and had stayed or intended to stay in the UK for a period of 12 months or more, or had a permanent UK address and was outside the UK and intended to be outside the UK for less than 12 months. (NRS made no specific adjustment for the presence of 6-12 months migrants among the persons counted in the census – [link for further details](#) [link for further details](#).)
4. The coverage of the population in an area is those who are usually resident there. A person's place of usual residence is in most cases the address at which they stay the majority of the time. For many people this will be their permanent or family home. Students are treated as being resident at their term-time address. Members of the armed forces were largely recorded at their permanent or family address rather than their base address; determining where they are considered usually resident is not straightforward.
5. As in 2001, adjustments for census under- and over-enumeration were built into the census process and as such the 2011 Census statistics represent the full population. Similar adjustments were not made in the censuses prior to 2001. Further information on the quality assurance processes for Scotland's Census 2011 are

⁴ National Records of Scotland (NRS) was created by the amalgamation in April 2011 of the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) and the National Archives of Scotland (NAS).

available [here](#).

Designation as National Statistics

6. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics. This means they are produced to the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are produced free from any political interference.

Protecting personal census information

7. Personal census information is kept confidential by NRS, and is protected by law. Census records are not released for 100 years.

8. The census results are provided in aggregate format; no attributes of individuals can be identified from the information published.

9. Information on the measures taken to protect the confidentiality of personal census information is published on the [Scotland's Census website](#).

Further information

Please contact our Customer Services if you need any further information. Email: statisticscustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk

If you have comments or suggestions that would help us improve our outputs or our standards of service, please contact:

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