Inability to work due to permanent sickness

Purpose:
To provide 2001 Census based information about resident populations prevented from working by permanent sickness.

Definition of indicator and its variants:
Proportion of residents in households unable to work because of long-term sickness or disability and corresponding sickness ratios.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Organisation (see glossary)</th>
<th>Current data</th>
<th>Trend data</th>
<th>File-worksheet name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number, percent and indirectly age-standardised sickness ratio</td>
<td>MFP</td>
<td>16+, working ages (16-59 (F), 16-64 (M))</td>
<td>E&amp;W, E, GOR, ONS area, SHA, LA, PCO, CTY</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td></td>
<td>03B_010VS_01_V2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Data for PCOs have been produced from “best fit” of Output Areas.

Numerator:

Numerator data - Number of residents prevented from working by long-term sickness or disability.

Source of numerator data – Office for National Statistics (ONS): Standard Table 28 (S28). Data processed by the Department of Health (DH).

Comments on numerator data - The ONS Area Classification values for Census indicators are computed from Local Authority (LA) data. Strategic Health Authority (SHA) values are computed from Primary Care Organisation (PCO) data rather than LA.

Numbers of persons “permanently sick” are based on those ticking the reply “Do you have any long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits your daily activities or the work you can do?” and then “Last week, were you any of the following: permanently sick or disabled?”.

Denominator:

Denominator data - The total number of residents in the area.

Source of denominator data – ONS: Standard Table 28 (S28). Data processed by DH.

Comments on denominator data - For those absent households for which no completed census form was received by ONS, certain data were imputed.

Statistical methods:
Census data for PCOs were produced by ONS on the basis of best fit using two different methods. The 2001 Census Key Statistics tables were produced on the basis of best fit of Output Areas to PCOs, and Standard tables (which are generally the more detailed tables, showing cross-tabulations between different variables) for health areas were produced on the basis of best fit of wards. The “two-method approach” used by ONS is a problem, in that the same variables for health areas appear as different totals in the Key Statistics and Standard tables. Some of these differences are also “significant”. For a more detailed explanation see:

Disclosure protection measures applied by the ONS to 2001 Census output for England and Wales are in place in order to prevent the inadvertent release of information about identifiable individuals. As a result, totals may sometimes not add up. For more details about disclosure control methods see:
Percentages were obtained by dividing numbers of "permanently sick" residents by the corresponding total number of residents in the area.

Standardised sickness ratios for each sex were calculated by multiplying age- and sex-specific illness rates for England and Wales (age-bands 16-24, 25-44, 45-64, and 65-74) by corresponding resident populations for each area.

Interpretation of indicators:

Quality of indicator - Annex 12 describes the criteria that should be used to judge the quality of this indicator. The application of the criteria is dependent on the context (e.g. describing a single organisation, comparing several organisations) and the level (e.g. national/ regional with large numbers of events, local with small numbers of events) at which the data are to be used.

Further reading:


Updated: December 2009