

Housing
Executive
Equality Unit

**Equality Bulletin Number 37 – Disability
Mapping Pilot Report**

April 2012

Disability Mapping Pilot Report 2012

Introduction

The Housing Executive has recently completed a pilot project that sets out an analysis of key indicators of health and disability related information available across Northern Ireland. This report contains a collage of information focusing on broad themes including prevalence of disabilities, mental health, general health and social wellbeing, age related issues, benefits, attitudes towards people with disabilities and support for people with disabilities. The report has links to 30 indicators of disability, a section on district office issues and has links to recent research.

The report has a similar approach to the Black and Minority Ethnic and Migrant Worker mapping report which is in its sixth year. In addition to interest from policy staff, the Consultative Forum on Equality had raised the issue of developing better information sources on disability to inform policy development and service delivery.

Purpose

The aim of the project is to provide a benchmark on disability (that can be built upon on an annual basis) to inform policy development, service delivery and decision making to meet the future needs of our customers.

Content

The report includes 30 dynamic indicators that will help to inform understanding of the level of and types of disability faced in Local

Government Districts (LGD's) throughout Northern Ireland. We used Geographical information Systems (GIS) to give a visual representation of key indicators and emerging trends. The district offices were asked to identify issues that are faced by customers with disabilities across Northern Ireland and details are also provided on key research information on housing issues faced by people with disabilities.

Key findings:

Prevalence of Disability

- The NI Census 2001 shows 41% of the 626,718 households in Northern Ireland having one or more persons with a limiting long-term illness.
- The 2011 Continuous Tenants Omnibus Survey (CTOS) shows 57% of NIHE tenant household members had a hidden physical disability, 51.2% of tenant household members had a physical disability and 17.7% of tenant household members had a mental health disorder.

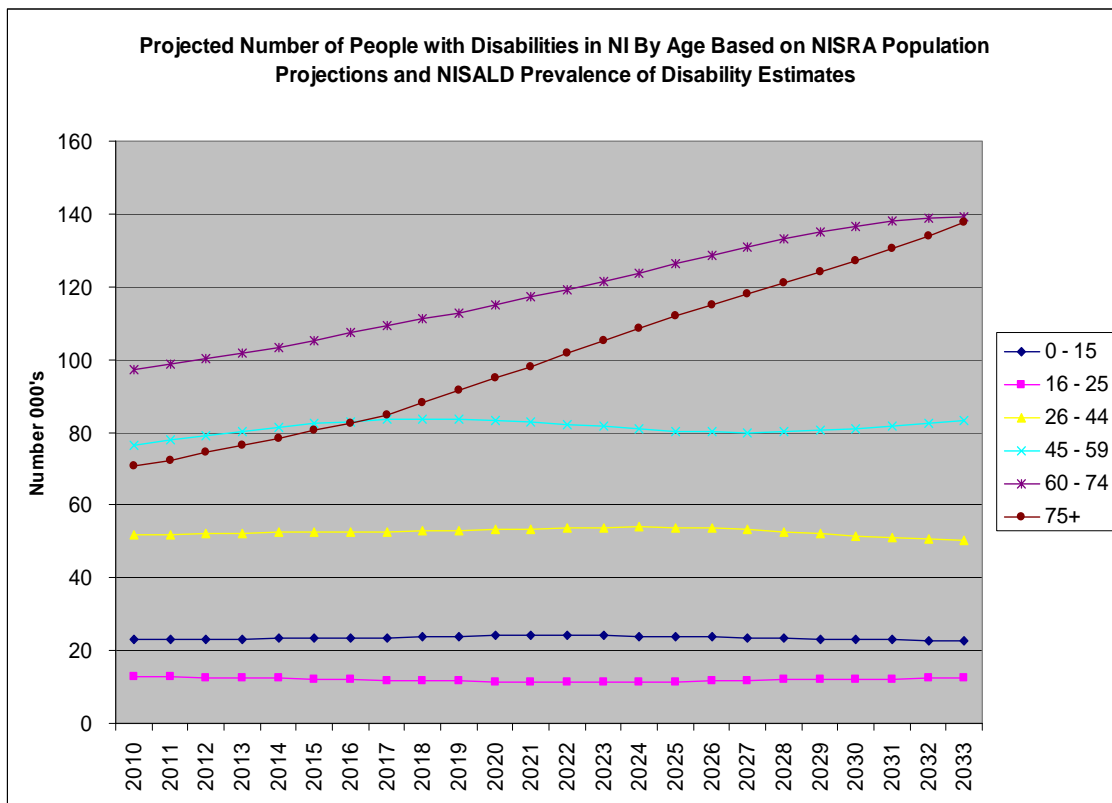
Mental Health

- Mood and anxiety disorders and admissions for self harm are highest in Belfast and Craigavon LGD's.
- The estimated number of people in Northern Ireland with Dementia is projected to increase by 41% from 17,765 in 2010 to 24,980 by 2021.

General Health and Social Wellbeing

- Comparisons between numbers of deaths in 2001 and 2010 show a significant increase from 158 to 313 (i.e. 98%) in deaths due to suicide and undetermined intent. Deaths due to circulatory disease fell by 23% over the same period.
- Cancers diagnosed in 2009 compared to 2005 (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer) showed an increase of 16.5% across Northern Ireland. The most significant increase was in Antrim LGD (49.1%).

Age Related Issues



- The projected number of people with disabilities based on NISRA population projections and NI Survey of people with Activity Limitations and Disabilities (NISALD) prevalence of disabilities estimates will increase by approximately 30% from 337,000 in 2011 to 437,000 in 2031. The increase is mainly due to the ageing population in Northern Ireland.

Benefits

- Main reasons for DLA payments in Northern Ireland include mental health causes (2.3% of the population), arthritis (1.9% of the population) and muscles/joint/bone disease (0.8% of the population).

Attitudes towards People with Disabilities

- The PSNI record the number of incidents which appear to have a disability motivation and the figures show a general decline in the number of incidents over the period from 70 in 2005/06 to 38 in 2010/11.

Support for People with Disabilities

- Households with Disabled Facility Grant completions in Northern Ireland over the four years from 2008 to 2011 shows a total of 6,512, 0.9% of the 715,200 households in Northern Ireland.

Feedback from District Offices

There were a number of key points including:

- Customers with disabilities are usually engaged with appropriate services through a support worker.
- District staff regularly network and engage with other agencies in relation to people with disabilities.
- There are issues which are unique to some districts (e.g. Castlereagh District covers Knockbracken (Purdysburn), the Ulster Hospital and Hydebank Young Offenders Centre and Women's Prison.)
- Lack of suitable accommodation for people with a number of types of disabilities.
- The importance of planning which includes an input from people with disabilities and representative groups in the work of the Housing Executive.

The full report is available in the NIHE website [click here](#).

If you would like further information or advice please contact the Equality Unit:

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