

POLICY BRIEFING

Carer's Allowance Statistics
August 2008

The Government has published the latest figures for the number of people claiming Carer's Allowance.

In February 2008, there were **477,660** people receiving Carer's Allowance (not including underlying entitlement cases) in Great Britain. There were a further 30,745 people receiving Carer's Allowance in Northern Ireland¹, making a total of **508,405** people in the UK.

This means that just under 1% of the total UK population is receiving Carer's Allowance. The proportion varies considerable across the nations of the UK – in Northern Ireland the proportion is 1.76%, nearly double that of the other countries.

Country	Number of recipients	Percentage of population ²
England	401,420	0.79%
Wales	31,740	1.07%
Scotland	44,400	0.87%
Northern Ireland	30,745	1.76%
Great Britain	477,660	0.81%
UK	508,405	0.87%

In February 2008, there were a further **872,080** people in Great Britain who were entitled to Carer's Allowance but not receiving any payment due to overlapping benefit provisions (i.e. underlying entitlement cases). With a further 17,820¹ with entitlement in Northern Ireland, this makes **889,900** in the UK.

Taking into account both those who are receiving Carer's Allowance and those with entitlement to it, **1,398,305** people in the UK have made a successful claim for Carer's Allowance.

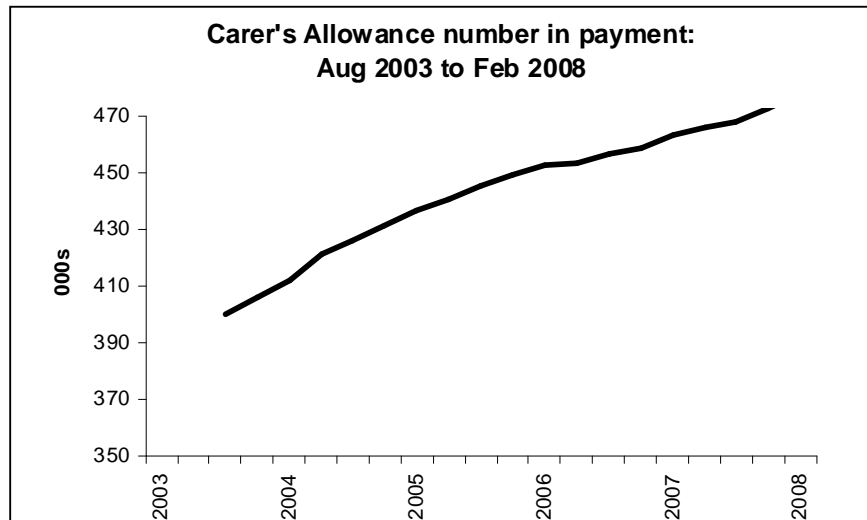
Further analysis (Great Britain only)

26% of claimants were male, and 74% female.

The number of people claiming Carer's Allowance has increased consistently over the last five years (see graph below). Between November 2007 and February 2008 it increased by **5240** people.

¹ Northern Ireland figures are for November 2007

² Based on population estimates from mid-2006: England 50,762,900; Wales 2,965,000; Scotland 5,116,900; Northern Ireland 1,742,000; UK 60,587,300; Great Britain 58,845,700



In fact, looking over the last few years the number of people claiming Carer's Allowance increases over the winter months. This could be due to an increase in illness and disability in the cold weather although in most cases people would have to wait 6 months to claim disability benefits, so the carer would not be able to claim immediately. The rise in claims could also be as a consequence of Carers Rights Day which takes place each December and encourages carers to find out about their entitlements and claim benefits. The chart below shows the increase in claimants over the last five years – notice that in February 2006, February 2007 and February 2008 the increase is above the trend of the previous increases.

Month	Aug 03	Nov 03	Feb 04	May 04	Aug 04	Nov 04	Feb 05
Number receiving CA (1000s)	400.18	406.23	412.12	421.18	426.34	431.66	436.94
Increase on previous month (1000s)		6.05	5.89	9.06	4.82	5.32	5.28

Month	May 05	Aug 05	Nov 05	Feb 06	May 06	Aug 06	Nov 06
Number (1000s)	441.03	445.43	444.09	452.54	453.54	456.70	458.93
Increase on previous month (1000s)	4.09	4.4	-1.34	8.45	1.0	3.16	2.23

Month	Feb 07	May 07	Aug 07	Nov 07	Feb 08
Number (1000s)	463.50	464.67	468.06	472.42	477.66
Increase on previous month (1000s)	4.57	1.17	3.39	4.36	5.24

People claim Carer's Allowance at all ages but the most common age groups are 40-44 and 45-49.

Age	Under 18	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44
Number receiving CA (1000s)	1.21	18.94	27.80	42.81	66.35	73.56
Percent	0.25	4.0	5.8	9.0	13.9	15.4

Age	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65+
Number (1000s)	66.69	61.11	67.13	36.97	15.08
Percent	14.0	12.8	14.1	7.7	3.2

The largest group of claimants has been receiving Carer's Allowance for more than five years.

Duration of claim (at Feb 08)	Up to 3 months	3-6 months	6-12 months	1-2 years	2-5 years	5 years and over
Number receiving CA (1000s)	15.91	21.12	42.19	69.99	132.89	195.56
Percentage	3.3	4.4	8.8	14.7	27.8	40.1

Claimants came from all parts of Great Britain but the largest numbers in any local authority are in the large metropolitan areas: Birmingham (12600), Glasgow (7340), Liverpool (6580), Bradford (5470), Manchester (5270), Sheffield (5210).

The parliamentary constituencies with the largest number of Carer's Allowance recipients are: Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath (2350), Bradford West (1820), Birmingham Ladywood (1700), Poplar and Canning Town (1620), Bethnal Green and Bow (1590), Blackburn (1540), Liverpool West Derby (1500), Middlesbrough (1500), Knowsley North and Sefton East (1480), Glasgow East (1460) and Knowsley South (1460).

A full breakdown of local authorities, parliamentary constituencies and other data can be found by using the Government's Statistical Tabulation Tool at:

<http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html>

The details for Northern Ireland – up to November 07- can be found at:

www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/stats_and_research/stats-publications/stats-benefit-publications/dla.htm.

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