

Disability in Kent

2021 Census

DWP benefits data –
November 2023

Annual Population Survey –
January to December 2023

NOTE: within this bulletin “Kent” refers to the Kent County Council area which excludes Medway.

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[Facts and figures about Kent](#)

There is no single measure of disability. This bulletin outlines three different sources which provide information about the number of people with a disability or disabling condition in Kent with comparisons to regional and national figures.

Heading

- According to the 2021 Census 281,423 people in Kent (17.9% of the resident population) were Equality Act disabled at the time of the Census. A further 116,477 had a long-term health condition but their day-to-day activities weren't limited by their condition.
- 10.2% of Kent's population were claiming a disability benefit as of November 2023 (161,897 claimants).
- 61.4% of claims were because of a physical health condition, 22.9% for a mental health condition and 15.7% because of a learning difficulty.
- People aged 16-65 in Kent who were disabled were less likely to be in employment (54.7%) than people without a disability (82.7%).

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Introduction

Kent County Council has a statutory requirement to ensure that it provides an equal and fair service to its whole population. An equal society recognises people's different needs, situations, and goals, and removes the barriers that limit what people can do and be.

Currently there are nine population groups which are protected by discrimination law – one of which is disabled people, the focus of this bulletin. This bulletin estimates the number of disabled people in Kent and the nature of their disability in an attempt to understand and have a more informed picture of the Kent community.

Definition of disability

The Equality Act 2010 defines disability as a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.

Substantial means that it is more than minor or trivial, for example it takes much longer than it usually would to complete a daily task like getting dressed.

Long-term means 12 months or more, for example a breathing condition that develops as a result of a lung infection.

Estimates of the number of people with a disability

There is no single measure of the number of people with a disability. The definitions of disability vary and often rely on an individual's perception of their own health; a condition that one person considers disabling is not necessarily considered in the same way by another with the same condition. The disabling effects of some health conditions may fluctuate so that if the person being interviewed is in a period of remission from their condition at the time of the interview, they might not consider themselves disabled at that time.

This bulletin looks at three datasets which give information about people with disabilities. The datasets used in this bulletin are:

The 2021 Census

This data provides a snapshot of the characteristics of the population as of Census Day 2021 (21st March 2021). The data from the census is available down to small geographical areas and by sex and age group.

The results from the 2021 Census show people who assessed their day-to-day activities as limited by long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses and are considered disabled. This definition of a disabled person is in line with the Equality Act (2010).

Department for Works and Pensions disability benefits data

This gives a count of the number of people claiming the disability related benefits Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Attendance Allowance (AA) and Personal Independence Payments (PIP). This data counts the number of people with a disability or health condition who need help with their personal care or have supervision needs, and/or have difficulty getting around and are deemed eligible to receive a disability benefit. Disability benefits data does not give any information about whether the disability or health condition limits the claimant's ability to work.

The Annual Population Survey (APS)

This is a residence-based labour market survey by the Office for National Statistics. The APS can provide estimates of the number of people of working age that consider themselves disabled, the level of disability and the employment rate of those people. As this is a sample survey the results provide an estimate and not an accurate count and it relies on individuals to evaluate whether they are disabled and to what degree. The data currently available from the APS and used in this bulletin uses the Equalities Act 2010 definition of disability.

Summary

It is very difficult to achieve an accurate estimate of the number of people with a disability.

The data sets presented in this bulletin show that the number of Kent residents with a disability can be anywhere in the region of 161,897 and 281,423.

Benefits data gives an accurate count of people claiming disability benefits and the age and sex of those claimants. It also provides more detail of the medical conditions that give rise to claims. However, this only gives information about those people whose disability or health condition means that they need additional help with day-to-day activities, have supervision and/or mobility needs and are successful in claiming benefits to help pay for the additional cost arising from having a disability. It does not count those people with a disability who do not have such needs and therefore cannot claim, neither does it include those people whose condition is not considered severe enough to warrant these benefits, but who nonetheless have some form of disability.

The Annual Population Survey questions only a sample of households every year and can only give an estimate and not a count of people with disabilities. It also relies on people to self-evaluate their health condition and the level to which it disables them. This will vary depending on the individuals questioned. How one person feels about their condition is not necessarily the same as another person's. This data is also restricted to looking at people of working age which in Kent equates to only 60.4% of the total population.

The 2021 Census is the only survey that questions everybody in England and Wales. However, questions about health are quite general and rely on an individual's personal view of their own condition. The Census is undertaken on a ten yearly cycle so data is infrequently updated and often out of date with no guarantee that questions included in future Censuses will be comparable with those previously asked.

2021 Census

Everyone is obliged to complete a census form and so it is the only survey which provides a detailed picture of the entire population. The data presented in this bulletin comes from the 2021 Census.

Data from the 2021 Census provides a snapshot of the characteristics of the population of England and Wales as of 2021. Headline figures are presented down to local authority district level.

The 2021 Census asked, "Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?". If the response was "yes" then an additional question asked, "Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?" and gave the option of responding "Yes, a lot", "Yes, a little", or "Not at all".

This question relies on individuals to self-evaluate their health. Many people who have an impairment or ill health may not consider themselves disabled while others suffering with a similar condition may consider that they are. The census question is very broad. It is not solely capturing counts of people with a disability but counts of people who believe they have any long-term illness or health problem. As a result of the wide definition, the census data provides the broadest count of disability.

Table 1 overleaf shows the results from the 2021 Census for local authority district areas in Kent.

At the time of the 2021 Census 281,423 in Kent considered that their day-to-day activities were limited by long-term physical or mental health condition or illness. This equates to 17.9% of the population. This was higher than seen regionally (16.1%) and slightly higher than the national rate (17.5%).

116,043 Kent residents (7.4% of the population) stated that they had a disability or health condition that limited their day-to-day activities a lot. 165,380 residents (10.5% of the population) stated that their disability or health condition affected their activities a little.

Table 2 shows the number of people who are not disabled under the Equalities Act. This includes people who have a health condition but it does not affect their day to day activities.

1,294,646 people in Kent are not disabled under the Equality Act (82.1% of the population). However, 116,477 people (7.4% of the population) do have a long term physical or mental health condition, but it does not affect their day-to-day activities.

Table 1: 2021 Census – people disabled under the Equality Act

| Area | All usual residents | Disabled under the Equality Act | Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot | Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little | % Disabled under the Equality Act | % Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot | % Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Ashford | 132,747 | 22,655 | 9,079 | 13,576 | 17.1% | 6.8% | 10.2% |
| Canterbury | 157,431 | 30,870 | 12,400 | 18,470 | 19.6% | 7.9% | 11.7% |
| Dartford | 116,753 | 16,374 | 6,646 | 9,728 | 14.0% | 5.7% | 8.3% |
| Dover | 116,410 | 24,647 | 10,634 | 14,013 | 21.2% | 9.1% | 12.0% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 109,758 | 23,960 | 10,429 | 13,531 | 21.8% | 9.5% | 12.3% |
| Gravesham | 106,900 | 17,509 | 7,414 | 10,095 | 16.4% | 6.9% | 9.4% |
| Maidstone | 175,782 | 28,025 | 11,012 | 17,013 | 15.9% | 6.3% | 9.7% |
| Sevenoaks | 120,514 | 18,088 | 7,016 | 11,072 | 15.0% | 5.8% | 9.2% |
| Swale | 151,677 | 29,637 | 12,671 | 16,966 | 19.5% | 8.4% | 11.2% |
| Thanet | 140,587 | 32,135 | 14,390 | 17,745 | 22.9% | 10.2% | 12.6% |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 132,201 | 20,224 | 7,841 | 12,383 | 15.3% | 5.9% | 9.4% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 115,311 | 17,299 | 6,511 | 10,788 | 15.0% | 5.6% | 9.4% |
| Kent | 1,576,069 | 281,423 | 116,043 | 165,380 | 17.9% | 7.4% | 10.5% |
| Medway | 279,773 | 48,572 | 20,166 | 28,406 | 17.4% | 7.2% | 10.2% |
| Kent & Medway | 1,855,842 | 329,995 | 136,209 | 193,786 | 17.8% | 7.3% | 10.4% |
| South East | 9,278,065 | 1,496,340 | 581,048 | 915,292 | 16.1% | 6.3% | 9.9% |
| England & Wales | 59,597,542 | 10,444,776 | 4,459,763 | 5,985,013 | 17.5% | 7.5% | 10.0% |

Source: 2021 Census table TS038 - Disability

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 2: 2021 Census – people not disabled under the Equality Act

| Area | All usual residents | Not disabled under the Equality Act | Not disabled under the Equality Act: Has long term physical or mental health condition but day-to-day activities are not limited | Not disabled under the Equality Act: No long term physical or mental health conditions | % Not disabled under the Equality Act | % Not disabled under the Equality Act: Has long term physical or mental health condition but day-to-day activities are not limited | % Not disabled under the Equality Act: No long term physical or mental health conditions |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Ashford | 132,747 | 110,092 | 9,592 | 100,500 | 82.9% | 7.2% | 75.7% |
| Canterbury | 157,431 | 126,561 | 12,431 | 114,130 | 80.4% | 7.9% | 72.5% |
| Dartford | 116,753 | 100,379 | 7,148 | 93,231 | 86.0% | 6.1% | 79.9% |
| Dover | 116,410 | 91,763 | 9,063 | 82,700 | 78.8% | 7.8% | 71.0% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 109,758 | 85,798 | 8,486 | 77,312 | 78.2% | 7.7% | 70.4% |
| Gravesham | 106,900 | 89,391 | 6,541 | 82,850 | 83.6% | 6.1% | 77.5% |
| Maidstone | 175,782 | 147,757 | 13,001 | 134,756 | 84.1% | 7.4% | 76.7% |
| Sevenoaks | 120,514 | 102,426 | 9,064 | 93,362 | 85.0% | 7.5% | 77.5% |
| Swale | 151,677 | 122,040 | 11,087 | 110,953 | 80.5% | 7.3% | 73.2% |
| Thanet | 140,587 | 108,452 | 10,392 | 98,060 | 77.1% | 7.4% | 69.8% |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 132,201 | 111,977 | 10,388 | 101,589 | 84.7% | 7.9% | 76.8% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 115,311 | 98,012 | 9,284 | 88,728 | 85.0% | 8.1% | 76.9% |
| Kent | 1,576,069 | 1,294,646 | 116,477 | 1,178,169 | 82.1% | 7.4% | 74.8% |
| Medway | 279,773 | 231,201 | 19,357 | 211,844 | 82.6% | 6.9% | 75.7% |
| Kent & Medway | 1,855,842 | 1,525,847 | 135,834 | 1,390,013 | 82.2% | 7.3% | 74.9% |
| South East | 9,278,065 | 7,781,725 | 698,690 | 7,083,035 | 83.9% | 7.5% | 76.3% |
| England & Wales | 59,597,542 | 49,152,766 | 4,062,569 | 45,090,197 | 82.5% | 6.8% | 75.7% |

Source: 2021 Census table TS038 - Disability

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

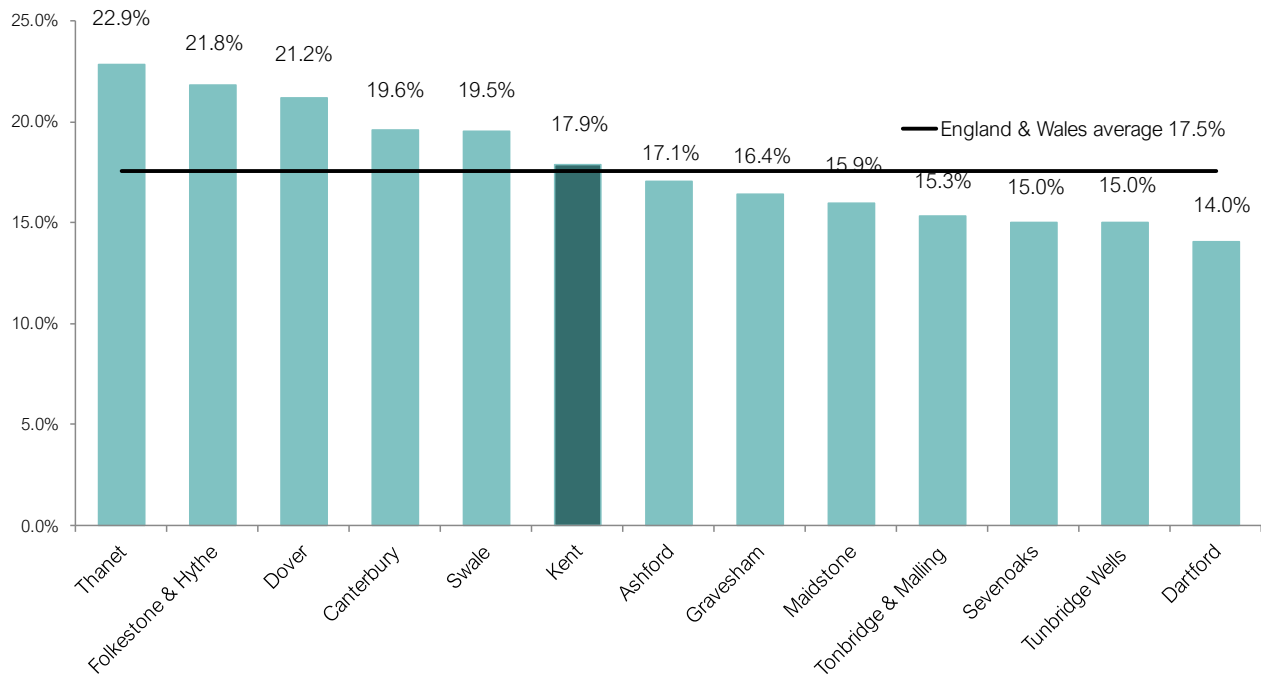
Thanet district had the highest proportion of it's population stating that they were disabled under the Equality Act (22.9%, 32,135 people). Dartford had the lowest number and proportion who were disabled (16,374, 14.0%).

Five Kent districts (Thanet, Folkestone & Hythe, Dover, Canterbury and Swale) had a higher proportion of the population who were disabled under the Equality Act than the Kent average (17.9%) and the national average (17.5%). All of these districts could be described as coastal districts in the East of the county.

Chart 1 shows the proportion of the population in Kent districts who were disabled under the Equality Act, ranked from highest to lowest and compared to the national average.

Chart 1: Proportion of the population disabled under the Equality Act

Percentage of population disabled under the Equality Act



Source: 2021 Census table TS038 - Disability
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

2021 Census – Disability by sex

In Kent there were more females who were disabled than males. 154,691 females were disabled (19.2% of all females) accounting for 55.0% of the disabled population while there were 126,732 disabled males (16.5% of all males accounting for 45.0% of the population with a disability).

In Kent districts there was a higher disability rate among females in all districts and they accounted for a higher proportion of the disabled population.

Thanet had the highest number and proportion of females and males who were disabled. 23.9% of females (17,462 females) and 21.7% of males (14,673 males) were recorded as disabled.

Dartford had the lowest number and proportion of both females and males that were disabled. 15.1% (9,024) females and 12.9% (7,350) males.

Table 3 shows the number and proportion of males and females who were disabled under the Equality Act in Kent districts.

Table 3: Census 2021 – disability by sex

| Area | Total | Female | Male | Female | Male |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Ashford | 22,655 | 12,655 | 10,000 | 18.6% | 15.5% |
| Canterbury | 30,870 | 17,452 | 13,418 | 21.3% | 17.8% |
| Dartford | 16,374 | 9,024 | 7,350 | 15.1% | 12.9% |
| Dover | 24,647 | 13,236 | 11,411 | 22.2% | 20.1% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 23,960 | 13,125 | 10,835 | 23.4% | 20.2% |
| Gravesham | 17,509 | 9,563 | 7,946 | 17.5% | 15.2% |
| Maidstone | 28,024 | 15,436 | 12,588 | 17.4% | 14.5% |
| Sevenoaks | 18,088 | 10,179 | 7,909 | 16.3% | 13.6% |
| Swale | 29,637 | 15,782 | 13,855 | 20.7% | 18.4% |
| Thanet | 32,135 | 17,462 | 14,673 | 23.9% | 21.7% |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 20,224 | 11,164 | 9,060 | 16.5% | 14.1% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 17,299 | 9,613 | 7,686 | 16.2% | 13.7% |
| Kent | 281,423 | 154,691 | 126,732 | 19.2% | 16.5% |
| Medway | 48,572 | 26,658 | 21,914 | 18.7% | 16.0% |
| Kent & Medway | 329,995 | 181,349 | 148,646 | 19.1% | 16.4% |
| South East | 1,496,340 | 833,049 | 663,291 | 17.6% | 14.6% |
| England | 10,444,776 | 5,774,721 | 4,670,055 | 19.0% | 16.0% |

Source: 2021 Census table TS038 - Disability

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

2021 Census – Disability by age

The Census also gives us the age profile of those people who are disabled.

The proportion of people with a disability increases with age with the highest proportion being those aged 65 and over. In Kent a third of people aged 65 and over were disabled under the Equality Act (33.7%). This was slightly lower than the national average of 35.5%.

Within Kent, Swale had the highest number of people aged 15 and under, 25 to 34 and 35 to 49 who were disabled. Canterbury had the highest number of people aged 16 to 24 with a disability however Canterbury has the highest total population in this age group due to the location of the universities within the district. Thanet had the highest number of people aged 50 to 64 and 65 and over that were disabled.

Thanet had the highest proportion in all age groups with a disability.

Tables 4 and 5 show the number and proportion of people in each age group in Kent districts that are disabled.

Table 4: Census 2021 – Disability by age (number)

| Area | Total | Aged 15 and under | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| | | Aged 16 to 24 | Aged 25 to 34 | Aged 35 to 49 | Aged 50 to 64 | Aged 65 and over | |
| Ashford | 22,654 | 1,944 | 1,626 | 2,112 | 3,388 | 5,126 | 8,458 |
| Canterbury | 30,870 | 2,032 | 4,261 | 2,616 | 4,020 | 6,193 | 11,748 |
| Dartford | 16,374 | 1,650 | 1,326 | 1,562 | 2,677 | 3,648 | 5,511 |
| Dover | 24,647 | 1,814 | 1,561 | 2,039 | 3,396 | 5,844 | 9,993 |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 23,960 | 1,760 | 1,476 | 1,885 | 3,368 | 5,709 | 9,762 |
| Gravesham | 17,509 | 1,670 | 1,335 | 1,512 | 2,620 | 4,094 | 6,278 |
| Maidstone | 28,025 | 2,251 | 1,970 | 2,579 | 4,351 | 6,019 | 10,855 |
| Sevenoaks | 18,088 | 1,621 | 1,233 | 1,240 | 2,330 | 3,855 | 7,809 |
| Swale | 29,637 | 2,880 | 2,268 | 2,903 | 4,576 | 6,823 | 10,187 |
| Thanet | 32,135 | 2,590 | 2,219 | 2,739 | 4,542 | 7,460 | 12,585 |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 20,224 | 1,843 | 1,504 | 1,656 | 2,970 | 4,562 | 7,689 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 17,299 | 1,246 | 1,290 | 1,440 | 2,661 | 3,879 | 6,783 |
| Kent | 281,423 | 23,301 | 22,070 | 24,284 | 40,899 | 63,212 | 107,657 |
| Medway | 48,572 | 4,296 | 4,058 | 4,762 | 7,773 | 11,666 | 16,017 |
| Kent & Medway | 329,995 | 27,597 | 26,128 | 29,046 | 48,672 | 74,878 | 123,674 |
| South East | 1,496,340 | 111,422 | 122,956 | 133,087 | 221,445 | 329,349 | 578,081 |
| England | 10,444,776 | 696,206 | 793,763 | 945,156 | 1,607,406 | 2,473,590 | 3,928,655 |

Source: 2021 Census table TS038 - Disability

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 5: Census 2021 – Disability by age (percent)

| Area | Total | Aged 15 and under | Aged 16 to 24 | Aged 25 to 34 | Aged 35 to 49 | Aged 50 to 64 | Aged 65 and over |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Ashford | 17.1% | 7.5% | 13.2% | 12.6% | 13.6% | 19.2% | 32.5% |
| Canterbury | 19.6% | 8.2% | 16.0% | 15.3% | 15.7% | 21.2% | 34.3% |
| Dartford | 14.0% | 6.3% | 12.8% | 8.8% | 10.2% | 18.0% | 34.4% |
| Dover | 21.2% | 8.9% | 15.5% | 15.2% | 17.2% | 23.3% | 35.8% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 21.8% | 9.7% | 15.8% | 15.7% | 17.9% | 23.8% | 35.6% |
| Gravesham | 16.4% | 7.5% | 12.9% | 10.7% | 12.3% | 20.1% | 34.1% |
| Maidstone | 15.9% | 6.7% | 12.5% | 11.0% | 12.4% | 17.5% | 32.4% |
| Sevenoaks | 15.0% | 6.8% | 12.4% | 10.0% | 10.0% | 15.4% | 30.1% |
| Swale | 19.5% | 9.7% | 15.8% | 14.6% | 16.0% | 22.6% | 35.2% |
| Thanet | 22.9% | 10.3% | 18.0% | 16.8% | 18.3% | 26.0% | 37.8% |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 15.3% | 6.9% | 12.9% | 10.9% | 11.2% | 16.9% | 30.4% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 15.0% | 5.4% | 13.1% | 11.2% | 11.3% | 16.3% | 30.3% |
| Kent | 17.9% | 7.8% | 14.4% | 12.7% | 13.7% | 20.1% | 33.7% |
| Medway | 17.4% | 7.5% | 14.1% | 12.3% | 14.0% | 21.8% | 34.8% |
| Kent & Medway | 17.8% | 7.7% | 14.4% | 12.6% | 13.8% | 20.3% | 33.8% |
| South East | 16.1% | 6.5% | 13.2% | 11.6% | 12.1% | 17.9% | 32.0% |
| England | 17.5% | 6.3% | 12.6% | 11.7% | 13.9% | 21.3% | 35.5% |

Source: 2021 Census table TS038 - Disability

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

DWP Disability Benefits

This section looks at the total number of claimants by age, sex, and main disabling condition for each of the following disability related benefits:

- Total disability benefits claimants (those claiming DLA, AA, or PIP)
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Attendance Allowance (AA)
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

These benefits contribute towards the extra cost of a health condition or disability. They can be claimed whether or not a person works and can be claimed in combination with other benefits. A claimant can only claim one disability related benefit depending on their age and eligibility.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) can be claimed by a person who has a disability or health condition which requires them to have help with their personal care or have supervision needs, and/or those who have difficulty getting around provided they claim before the age of 65. From 2013 only people aged under 16 would be able to make a new claim for DLA.

In 2013, the government introduced a new disability benefit called Personal Independence Payment (PIP) to replace DLA for eligible working age people aged 16 to 64. From June 2013 a person aged 16-64 making a new claim for a disability benefit would only be eligible to claim PIP. Any existing DLA claimants aged 16 to 64 years old will eventually be asked by the Department for Work and Pensions to claim PIP, but until that time will continue to receive DLA.

Attendance Allowance (AA) can be claimed by those people who become disabled or make a new disability benefit claim from the age of 65.

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is paid to eligible people aged 16 to 64. It is a new benefit which is replacing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for working age people.

While these benefits are designed to help with the additional costs incurred by having a disability there is no requirement to spend the benefits received on personal care or additional mobility costs. Recipients of DLA, AA and PIP are free to spend them as they wish.

The number of disability benefit claimants does not necessarily reflect all those with a disability. There will be people who feel they do not need assistance with personal care or mobility and therefore do not apply for these benefits. Equally there will be people who apply but their claim may be turned down because their disability is not considered severe enough. As a result, the number of people claiming disability benefits is not a count of all people with a disability.

The count of disability benefit claimants comes from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) individual benefits data. The number of claimants is broken down by main disabling condition, age, sex, and duration of claim.

This bulletin presents data for November 2023.

Total disability benefits (DLA, AA or PIP)

As a person may only claim one disability benefit, either DLA, PIP or AA, it is possible to combine the counts of each of these benefits to estimate the total number of disabled people claiming a disability benefit.

Table 6 shows the total number of people claiming a disability benefit.

Table 6: Total disability benefits claimants (DLA, AA or PIP)

| Area | Number November 2023 | Claimant rate | Change since November 2022 | % change |
|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Ashford | 12,832 | 9.5% | 1,203 | 10.3% |
| Canterbury | 16,310 | 10.4% | 1,493 | 10.1% |
| Dartford | 9,494 | 8.0% | 944 | 11.0% |
| Dover | 14,479 | 12.3% | 1,305 | 9.9% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 14,818 | 13.4% | 1,135 | 8.3% |
| Gravesham | 10,499 | 9.8% | 893 | 9.3% |
| Maidstone | 15,347 | 8.5% | 1,623 | 11.8% |
| Sevenoaks | 9,927 | 8.2% | 892 | 9.9% |
| Swale | 18,561 | 12.0% | 1,824 | 10.9% |
| Thanet | 20,160 | 14.3% | 1,710 | 9.3% |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 11,027 | 8.2% | 1,071 | 10.8% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 8,450 | 7.3% | 697 | 9.0% |
| Kent | 161,897 | 10.2% | 14,783 | 10.0% |
| Medway | 28,774 | 10.2% | 2,526 | 9.6% |
| Kent & Medway | 190,674 | 10.2% | 17,317 | 10.0% |
| South East | 769,611 | 8.2% | 65,845 | 9.4% |
| England | 5,557,503 | 9.7% | 456,717 | 9.0% |

Source: DWP

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

10.2% of people in Kent were claiming a disability benefit as of November 2023, this equates to 161,897 claimants. Kent's disability benefit claimant rate of 10.2% is above the national average (9.7%) and the regional average of 8.2%. The number of claimants in Kent has increased by 10% since the previous year.

In Kent, Thanet district had the highest number of disability benefits claimants with 20,160 people claiming either DLA, PIP or AA, equivalent to 14.3% of the population of the district. Tunbridge Wells had the lowest number of claimants in the county with 8,450 claimants (7.3% of its resident population).

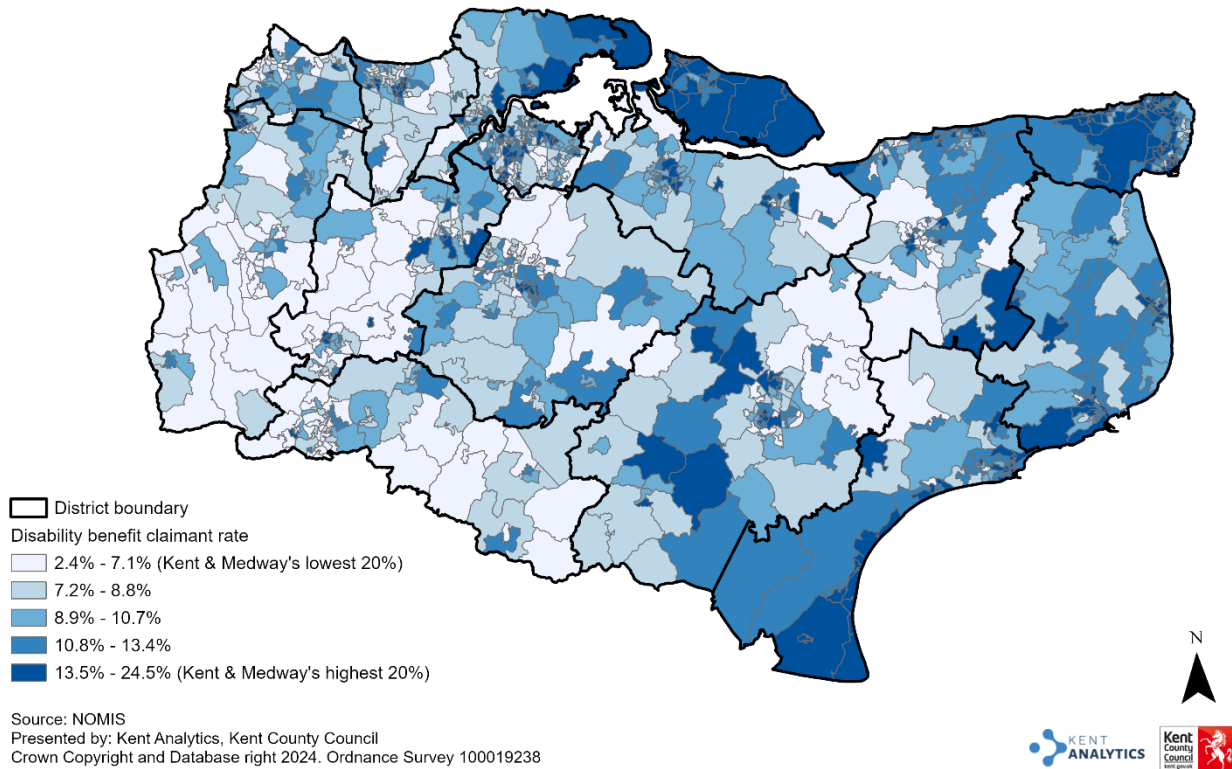
All local authorities in Kent saw an increase in claimants. The biggest increase was in Swale where there were an additional 1,824 claimants, an increase of 10.9% on the previous year.

Map 1 shows the proportion of the population in Kent and Medway claiming disability benefits.

The map shows that claimant rates tend to be highest in the east of the county, although there are areas with high claimant rates in all Kent districts.

Map 1: Disability Benefit Claimants in Kent

Disability benefit claimant rates in Kent & Medway LSOAs
November 2023



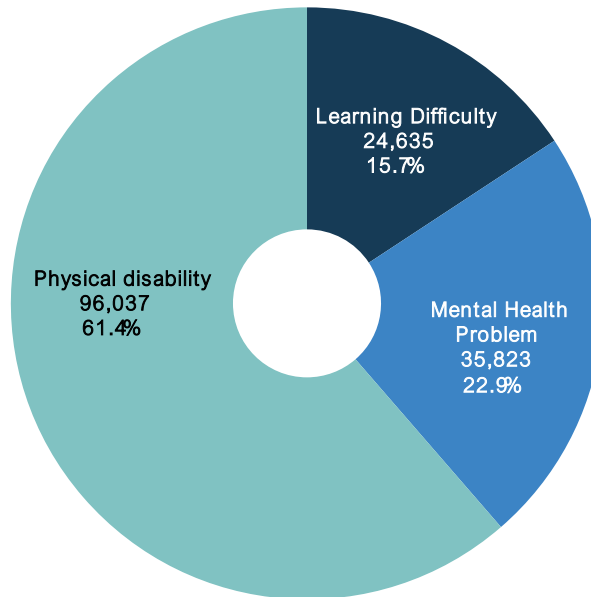
The DWP also publish benefit claimants by main medical reason for the claim.

Chart 2 overleaf combines the individual medical causes for a claim into three groups; those with a physical disability or health condition, those with a learning difficulty and those who are claiming because of mental health conditions. The term physical disability is used to include all medical conditions except mental health conditions or learning difficulty.

The chart shows that in Kent the most common cause for claiming a disability benefit was a physical disability or health condition. This accounts for 61.4% of all claims.

Chart 2: Disability benefit claimants by condition

Disability benefit claimants (DLA+AA+PIP) in Kent by grouped medical condition
November 2023



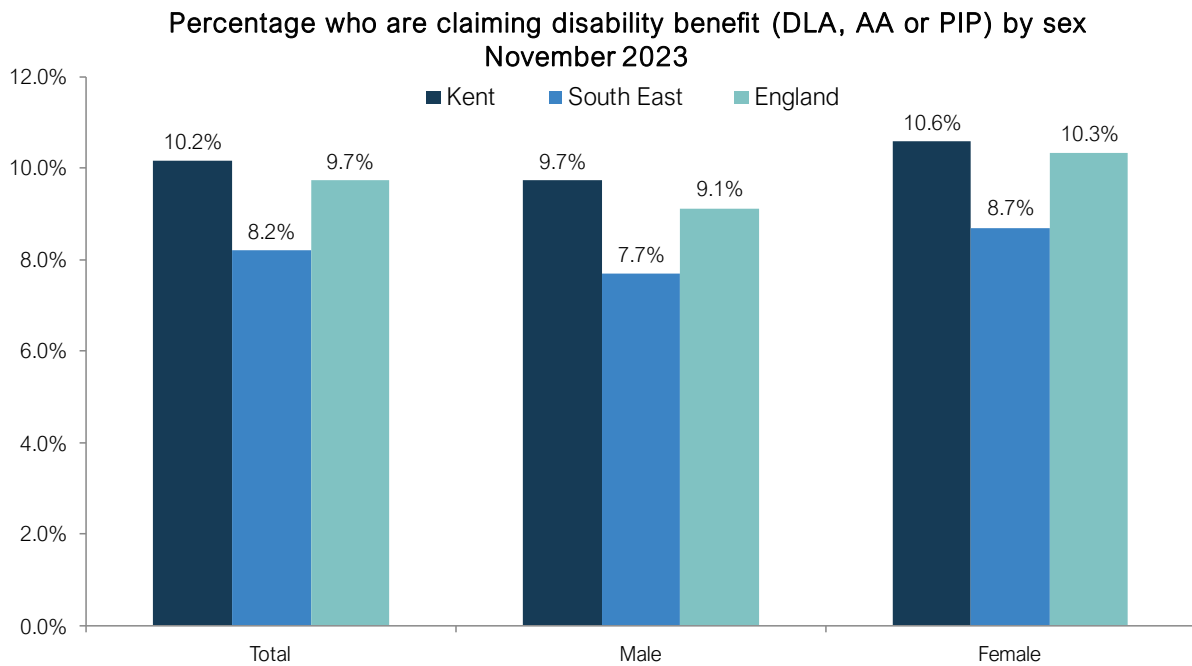
Source: DWP
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Females are more likely to be claiming a disability benefit than males. This pattern is also reflected regionally and nationally. This is shown in chart 3 overleaf.

A higher proportion of females were claiming a disability benefit in all the Kent local authority district areas. This is shown in table 7 overleaf.

Thanet (14.7%) and Folkestone & Hythe (14.1%) had the highest proportion of females claiming a disability benefit. Thanet also had the highest proportion of males claiming disability benefits (13.9%). Those areas with the highest male and female claimant rates were all coastal districts.

Chart 3: Disability benefits claimants by sex



Source: DWP
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 7: Disability benefit claimants by sex

| Area | Total Claimants | Males | Females | Total % | Male % | Female % |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Ashford | 12,832 | 5,873 | 6,955 | 9.5% | 8.9% | 10.0% |
| Canterbury | 16,310 | 7,466 | 8,846 | 10.4% | 9.8% | 10.8% |
| Dartford | 9,494 | 4,497 | 4,997 | 8.0% | 7.7% | 8.2% |
| Dover | 14,479 | 6,855 | 7,623 | 12.3% | 12.0% | 12.7% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 14,818 | 6,841 | 7,973 | 13.4% | 12.7% | 14.1% |
| Gravesham | 10,499 | 4,940 | 5,558 | 9.8% | 9.5% | 10.1% |
| Maidstone | 15,347 | 7,139 | 8,214 | 8.5% | 8.0% | 9.0% |
| Sevenoaks | 9,927 | 4,454 | 5,464 | 8.2% | 7.6% | 8.7% |
| Swale | 18,561 | 8,976 | 9,589 | 12.0% | 11.7% | 12.3% |
| Thanet | 20,160 | 9,425 | 10,740 | 14.3% | 13.9% | 14.7% |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 11,027 | 5,122 | 5,903 | 8.2% | 7.9% | 8.6% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 8,450 | 3,874 | 4,580 | 7.3% | 6.9% | 7.7% |
| Kent | 161,897 | 75,452 | 86,452 | 10.2% | 9.7% | 10.6% |
| Medway | 28,774 | 13,549 | 15,224 | 10.2% | 9.8% | 10.6% |
| Kent + Medway | 190,674 | 88,999 | 101,666 | 10.2% | 9.7% | 10.6% |
| South East | 769,611 | 353,254 | 416,364 | 8.2% | 7.7% | 8.7% |
| England | 5,557,503 | 2,552,789 | 3,004,715 | 9.7% | 9.1% | 10.3% |

Source: DWP
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 4 shows disability benefits claimants by age group in Kent compared to the South East Region and England & Wales.

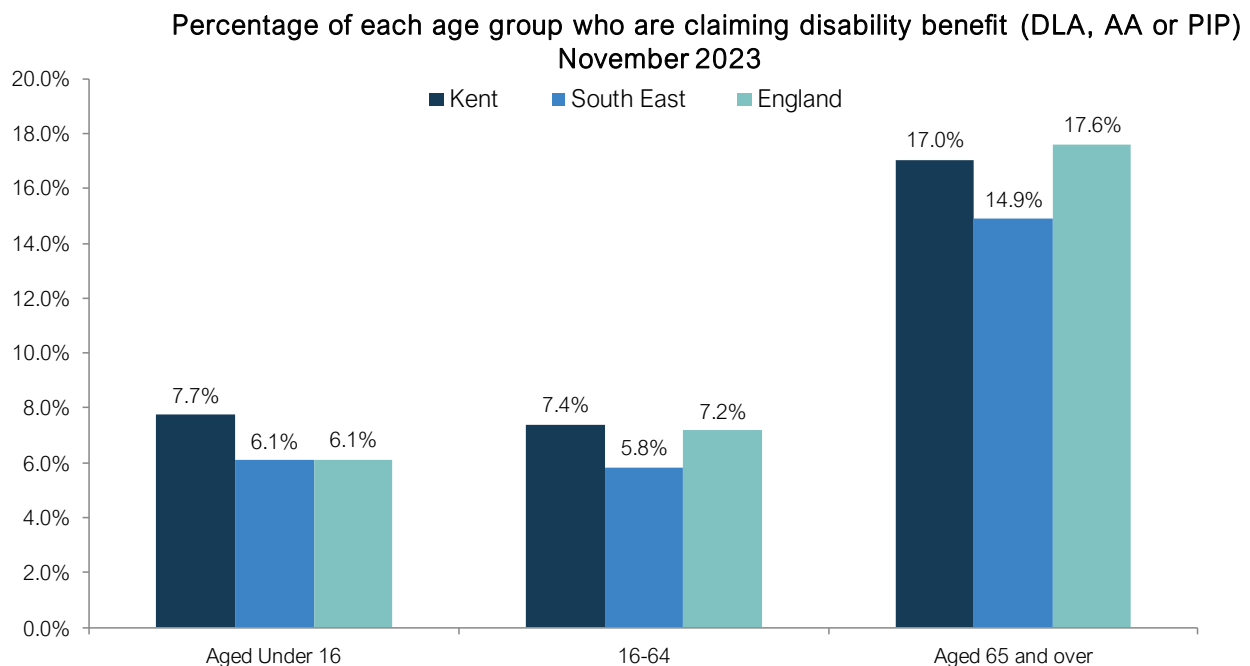
By far those aged 65 and above are more likely to claim a disability benefit than those aged under 65. This may be due in part not only to the increase of disability due to health conditions related to aging but also to lower levels of income once people are no longer working and finding themselves unable to meet the additional cost relating to a disability.

In Kent 17.0% of people aged 65 and over were claiming a disability benefit. This is above the regional average (14.9%) and just below the national average (17.6%).

7.4% of those aged 16 to 64 were claiming a disability benefit in Kent, just above the national average of 7.2%.

Kent had a higher proportion of people aged under 16 (7.7%) claiming a disability benefit than the regional and national average (both 6.1%).

Chart 4: Disability benefit claimants by age group



Source: DWP
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Thanet had the highest proportion of claimants in all age groups. The claimant rate in Thanet of those aged under 16 was 11.1% (2,805 claimants) and of those aged 16-64 was 10.9% (8,888 claimants). 1 in 5 people in Thanet were claiming a disability benefit aged 65+ (20.0%, 6,749 claimants).

Swale had the second highest proportion of claimants aged under 16 at 10.2%. Folkestone & Hythe closely followed Thanet in the age groups 16-64 and 65+ (10.1% and 19.9%).

Swale had the highest number of claimants aged 0-15 and Thanet had the highest number of claimants aged 16-64 and 65+. This is shown in table 8.

Table 8: Disability benefit claimants by age group

| Area | Number aged 0-15 | Number aged 16-64 | Number aged 65+ | 0-15 % | 16-64 % | 65+ % |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------|---------|-------|
| Ashford | 2,016 | 5,817 | 4,226 | 7.6% | 7.1% | 15.8% |
| Canterbury | 2,162 | 7,077 | 5,795 | 8.6% | 7.3% | 16.5% |
| Dartford | 1,756 | 4,303 | 2,840 | 6.5% | 5.7% | 17.5% |
| Dover | 1,915 | 6,308 | 4,974 | 9.3% | 9.2% | 17.4% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 1,609 | 6,480 | 5,582 | 8.8% | 10.1% | 19.9% |
| Gravesham | 1,739 | 4,815 | 3,226 | 7.7% | 7.3% | 17.5% |
| Maidstone | 2,270 | 6,732 | 5,398 | 6.4% | 6.1% | 15.7% |
| Sevenoaks | 1,504 | 3,727 | 4,124 | 6.3% | 5.3% | 15.6% |
| Swale | 3,110 | 8,732 | 5,373 | 10.2% | 9.2% | 18.2% |
| Thanet | 2,805 | 8,888 | 6,749 | 11.1% | 10.9% | 20.0% |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 1,748 | 4,621 | 4,001 | 6.5% | 5.7% | 15.5% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 997 | 3,656 | 3,290 | 4.3% | 5.2% | 14.3% |
| Kent | 23,616 | 71,149 | 55,590 | 7.7% | 7.4% | 17.0% |
| Medway | 4,236 | 14,052 | 8,354 | 7.3% | 7.9% | 17.8% |
| Kent + Medway | 27,856 | 85,199 | 63,945 | 7.7% | 7.5% | 17.1% |
| South East | 106,355 | 338,445 | 274,804 | 6.1% | 5.8% | 14.9% |
| England & Wales | 647,422 | 2,580,749 | 1,871,947 | 6.1% | 7.2% | 17.6% |

Source: DWP

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Overall females are more likely to be claiming a disability benefit than males, however this is not necessarily reflected when looking at the age groups in more detail.

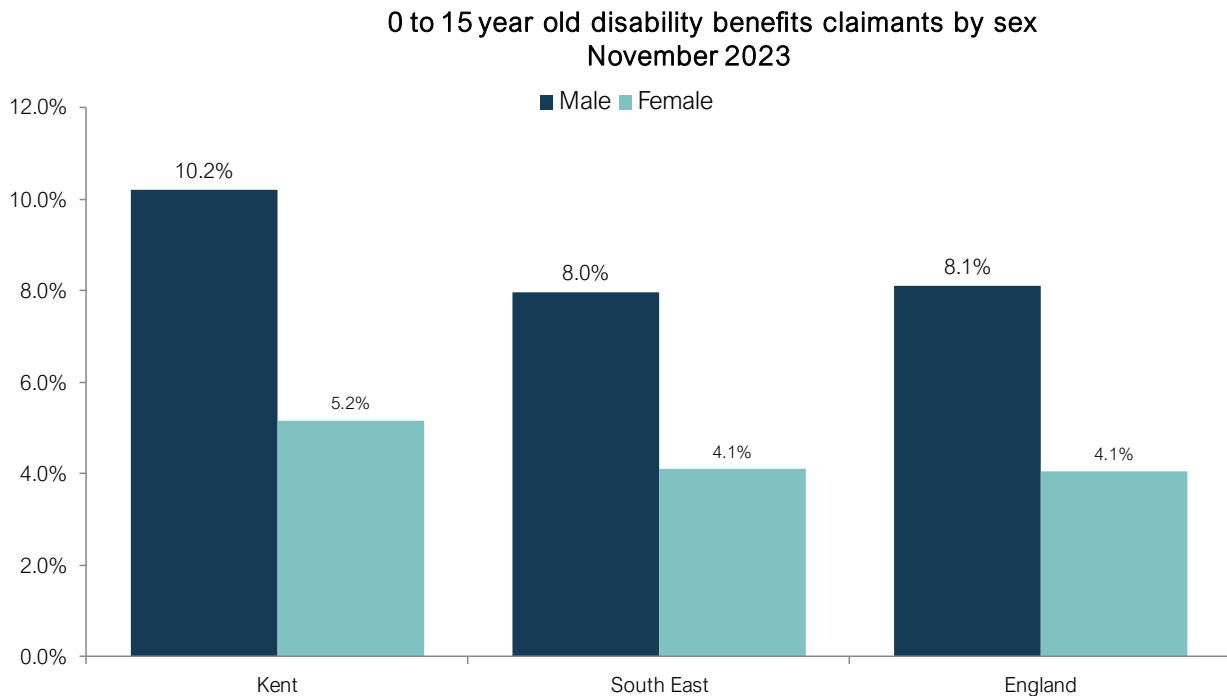
Chart 5 overleaf shows the sex breakdown of those people aged 0-15 for whom disability benefits were being claimed.

Overall disability benefits were claimed for 7.7% of the Kent population aged 0-15. They accounted for 14.6% of all disability benefit claimants in Kent. This age group would only be eligible for Disability Living Allowance.

Males were responsible for almost twice as many claims for disability benefits than females in the 0-15 age group. In Kent 67.6% of claimants aged 0-15 were male. This is because

there are significantly more males aged 0-15 for whom DLA is claimed due to a learning difficulty, behavioural or hyperkinetic disorder than females.

Chart 5: Disability benefit claimants aged 0-15 (DLA)



Source: DWP
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

A higher proportion of both males (10.2%) and females (5.2%) aged 0-15 in Kent were claiming disability benefits than seen nationally (8.1% males, 4.1% females).

Swale district had the highest number of under 16 claimants in the county with DLA being claimed for 3,110 young people aged 15 and under. 13.5% of males and 6.7% of females in Swale were claiming DLA.

Thanet had the highest proportion of claimants aged under 16 (11.1%). In Thanet 14.3% of males and 7.7% of females aged under 16 were claiming DLA.

Between them Swale and Thanet accounted for a quarter of all Kent's disability claimants aged 15 and under.

Table 9 shows the number and proportion of DLA claimants aged under 16 by sex in Kent and Kent districts compared to the national and regional average.

Table 9: Disability benefit claimants aged 0-15 by sex

| Area | Total Claimants 0-15 | Male claimants 0-15 | Female claimants 0-15 | Total 0-15 % | Males 0-15 % | Female 0-15 % |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Ashford | 2,016 | 1,374 | 637 | 7.6% | 10.1% | 4.9% |
| Canterbury | 2,162 | 1,431 | 732 | 8.6% | 11.1% | 6.1% |
| Dartford | 1,756 | 1,199 | 557 | 6.5% | 8.7% | 4.3% |
| Dover | 1,915 | 1,294 | 624 | 9.3% | 12.4% | 6.2% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 1,609 | 1,067 | 537 | 8.8% | 11.4% | 6.0% |
| Gravesham | 1,739 | 1,217 | 524 | 7.7% | 10.6% | 4.7% |
| Maidstone | 2,270 | 1,536 | 734 | 6.4% | 8.5% | 4.3% |
| Sevenoaks | 1,504 | 1,021 | 483 | 6.3% | 8.3% | 4.1% |
| Swale | 3,110 | 2,107 | 999 | 10.2% | 13.5% | 6.7% |
| Thanet | 2,805 | 1,875 | 932 | 11.1% | 14.3% | 7.7% |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 1,748 | 1,163 | 590 | 6.5% | 8.4% | 4.5% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 997 | 687 | 307 | 4.3% | 5.8% | 2.7% |
| Kent | 23,616 | 15,969 | 7,650 | 7.7% | 10.2% | 5.2% |
| Medway | 4,236 | 2,862 | 1,375 | 7.3% | 9.6% | 4.8% |
| Kent + Medway | 27,856 | 18,830 | 9,023 | 7.7% | 10.1% | 5.1% |
| South East | 106,355 | 71,429 | 34,922 | 6.1% | 8.0% | 4.1% |
| England | 647,422 | 438,350 | 209,075 | 6.1% | 8.1% | 4.1% |

Source: DWP

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

A much more equal proportion of males and females claim disability benefits in the 16-64 age group than can be seen in those aged 15 and under. 7.4% of the population in Kent aged 16 to 64 were claiming a disability benefit in November 2023. This is higher than the South East average of 5.8% and just above the national average of 7.2%. This age group would be claiming either DLA or PIP.

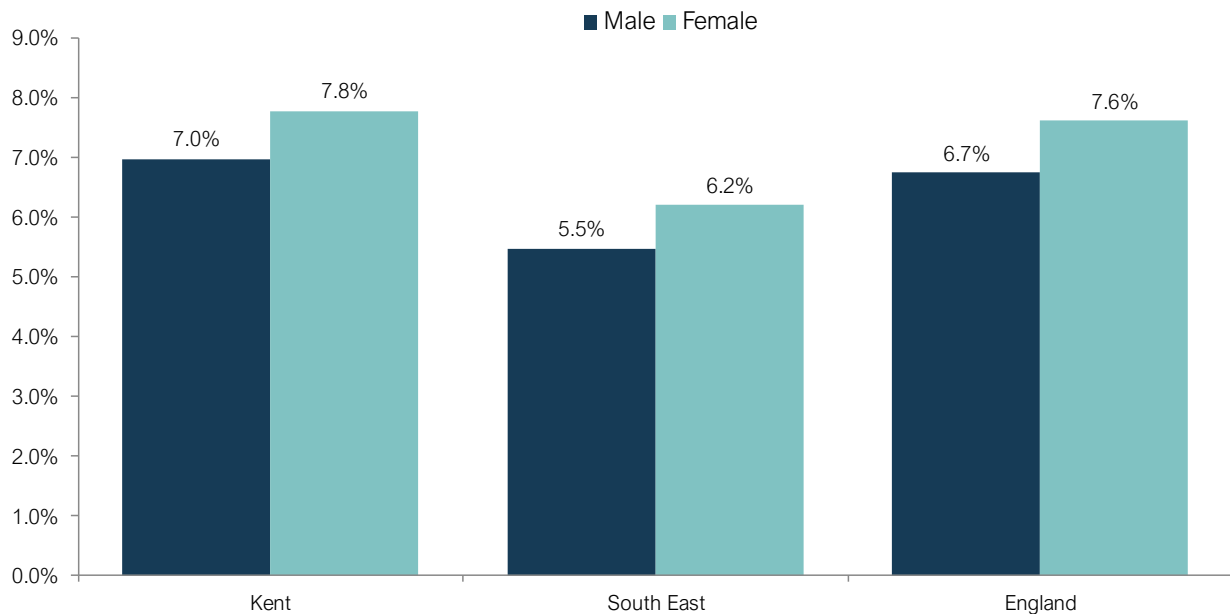
Thanet, Dover, Folkestone & Hythe, and Swale districts all had a higher proportion of claimants in this age group than the Kent, South East and England & Wales average. Thanet had the highest proportion of claimants aged 16-64 (10.9%) in Kent.

7.0% of males and 7.8% of females aged 16-64 in Kent were claiming a disability benefit in November 2023.

Chart 6 shows disability benefits claimants aged 16-64 by sex in Kent compared to the South East and England. Table 10 shows the number and proportion of DLA claimants aged 16 to 64 by sex in Kent and Kent districts compared to the national and regional average.

Chart 6: Disability benefit claimants aged 16-64

16 to 64 year old disability benefits claimants by sex
November 2023



Source: DWP
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 10: Disability benefit claimants aged 16 to 64 by sex

| Area | Total | Male | Female | Total | Males | Female |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Claimants 16-64 | claimants 16-64 | claimants 16-64 | 16-64 % | 16-64 % | 16-64 % |
| Ashford | 5,817 | 2,526 | 3,291 | 7.1% | 6.3% | 7.8% |
| Canterbury | 7,077 | 3,294 | 3,791 | 7.3% | 7.0% | 7.5% |
| Dartford | 4,303 | 1,955 | 2,341 | 5.7% | 5.3% | 6.0% |
| Dover | 6,308 | 2,946 | 3,367 | 9.2% | 8.8% | 9.6% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 6,480 | 3,041 | 3,444 | 10.1% | 9.7% | 10.6% |
| Gravesham | 4,815 | 2,247 | 2,564 | 7.3% | 7.0% | 7.7% |
| Maidstone | 6,732 | 3,126 | 3,609 | 6.1% | 5.7% | 6.5% |
| Sevenoaks | 3,727 | 1,664 | 2,063 | 5.3% | 4.9% | 5.6% |
| Swale | 8,732 | 4,100 | 4,633 | 9.2% | 8.7% | 9.8% |
| Thanet | 8,888 | 4,154 | 4,737 | 10.9% | 10.5% | 11.2% |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 4,621 | 2,099 | 2,523 | 5.7% | 5.3% | 6.1% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 3,656 | 1,736 | 1,919 | 5.2% | 5.1% | 5.4% |
| Kent | 71,149 | 32,875 | 38,278 | 7.4% | 7.0% | 7.8% |
| Medway | 14,052 | 6,512 | 7,540 | 7.9% | 7.5% | 8.4% |
| Kent + Medway | 85,199 | 39,384 | 45,811 | 7.5% | 7.1% | 7.9% |
| South East | 338,445 | 156,426 | 182,022 | 5.8% | 5.5% | 6.2% |
| England | 2,580,749 | 1,193,850 | 1,386,904 | 7.2% | 6.7% | 7.6% |

Source: DWP
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Disability benefit claimants aged 65 and over could be claiming DLA or PIP (if their claim was made before their 65th birthday) or AA (if their claim was made after reaching the age of 65).

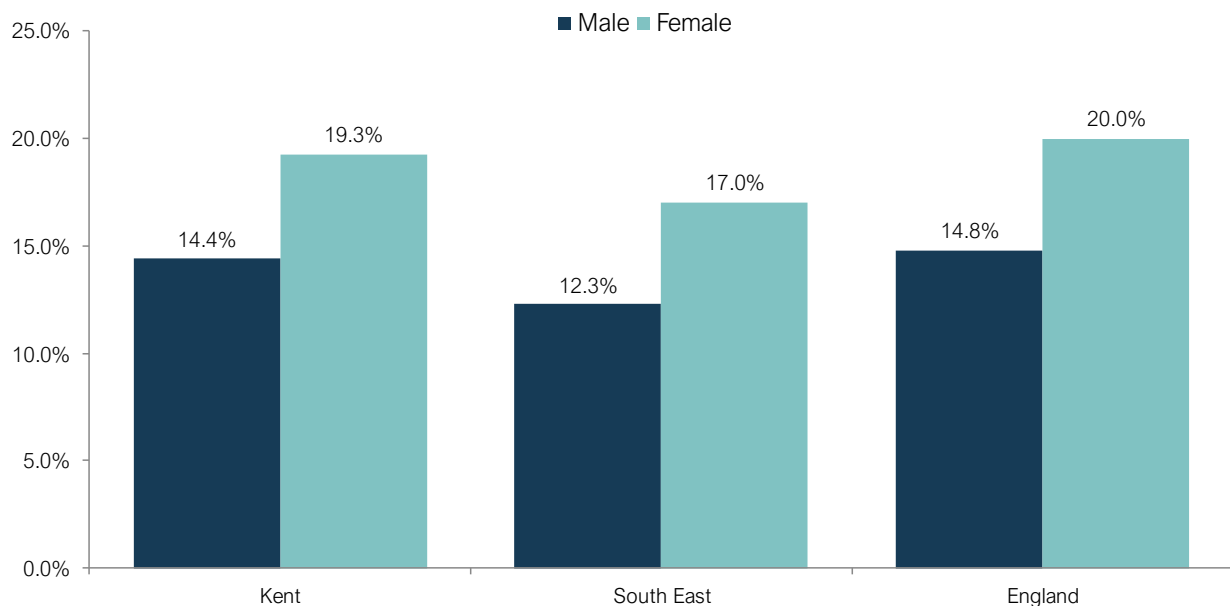
In Kent 17.0% of the population aged 65 and over were claiming a disability benefit, slightly lower than the national average of 17.6%.

Chart 7 shows disability benefits claimants aged 65 and over by sex.

The chart shows that a higher proportion of females over the age of 65 claim disability benefits than males. Females in this age group who claim a disability benefit are significantly more likely to claim because of arthritis or a musculoskeletal disease. There were also more female claimants suffering with mental health problems than males in this age group.

Chart 7: Disability benefit claimants aged 65 and over

65+ disability benefit claimants by sex
November 2023



Source: DWP
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Thanet had the highest number and proportion of claimants aged 65 and over (6,749, 20.0%).

Overall, in Kent 19.3% of females aged 65 and over were claiming a disability benefit accounting for 61.4% of all disability benefit claimants in that age group.

Folkestone & Hythe and Thanet had the highest proportion of female claimants (22.3% in Folkestone & Hythe and 22.2% in Thanet) and the highest proportion of male claimants (17.2% in Folkestone & Hythe and 17.5% in Thanet).

Table 11: Disability benefit claimants aged 65+ by sex

| Area | Total Claimants 65+ | Male claimants 65+ | Female claimants 65+ | Total 65+ % | Males 65+ % | Female 65+ % |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Ashford | 4,226 | 1,645 | 2,586 | 15.8% | 13.4% | 17.9% |
| Canterbury | 5,795 | 2,185 | 3,609 | 16.5% | 13.9% | 18.7% |
| Dartford | 2,840 | 1,073 | 1,775 | 17.5% | 14.6% | 20.0% |
| Dover | 4,974 | 1,992 | 2,986 | 17.4% | 15.0% | 19.6% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 5,582 | 2,218 | 3,369 | 19.9% | 17.2% | 22.3% |
| Gravesham | 3,226 | 1,185 | 2,044 | 17.5% | 14.2% | 20.2% |
| Maidstone | 5,398 | 2,083 | 3,315 | 15.7% | 13.3% | 17.8% |
| Sevenoaks | 4,124 | 1,528 | 2,583 | 15.6% | 12.7% | 17.9% |
| Swale | 5,373 | 2,135 | 3,241 | 18.2% | 15.5% | 20.6% |
| Thanet | 6,749 | 2,644 | 4,110 | 20.0% | 17.5% | 22.2% |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 4,001 | 1,545 | 2,453 | 15.5% | 13.1% | 17.5% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 3,290 | 1,207 | 2,077 | 14.3% | 11.6% | 16.5% |
| Kent | 55,590 | 21,440 | 34,149 | 17.0% | 14.4% | 19.3% |
| Medway | 8,354 | 3,231 | 5,114 | 17.8% | 15.0% | 20.1% |
| Kent + Medway | 63,945 | 24,672 | 39,267 | 17.1% | 14.5% | 19.4% |
| South East | 274,804 | 103,543 | 171,256 | 14.9% | 12.3% | 17.0% |
| England | 1,871,947 | 721,066 | 1,150,891 | 17.6% | 14.8% | 20.0% |

Source: DWP

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Individual disability benefits

This section shows the number of people claiming AA, DLA or PIP separately and the reasons for which the claims are made.

Disability Living Allowance

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) was awarded to people who became disabled before the age of 65 and made their claim for benefit before June 2013. It was replaced by Personal Independence Payment (PIP) from June 2013 for all new claims by people aged 16-64.

Existing claimants aged over 16 will still receive DLA until they are asked to reapply for Personal Independence payments (PIP).

People aged under 16 will continue to be able to claim DLA. When a claimant reaches the age of 16, they are asked to apply for PIP.

The number of people who were claiming DLA as of November 2023 is shown in table 12.

The table shows that at 2.4%, Kent had a slightly higher proportion of its population claiming DLA than the average for the South East Region and England (both 2.0%).

The number of claimants in Kent increased by 1,977 since the previous year, an increase of 5.4%.

Table 12: Disability Living Allowance Claimants in Kent Districts

| Area | Number November 2023 | Claimant rate | Change since November 2022 | % change |
|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Ashford | 3,437 | 2.5% | 187 | 5.8% |
| Canterbury | 3,428 | 2.2% | 259 | 8.2% |
| Dartford | 2,632 | 2.2% | 152 | 6.1% |
| Dover | 3,048 | 2.6% | 164 | 5.7% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 2,934 | 2.7% | 88 | 3.1% |
| Gravesham | 2,726 | 2.5% | 119 | 4.6% |
| Maidstone | 3,621 | 2.0% | 214 | 6.3% |
| Sevenoaks | 2,525 | 2.1% | 128 | 5.3% |
| Swale | 4,859 | 3.1% | 259 | 5.6% |
| Thanet | 4,411 | 3.1% | 226 | 5.4% |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 2,806 | 2.1% | 142 | 5.3% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 1,916 | 1.7% | 20 | 1.1% |
| Kent | 38,356 | 2.4% | 1,977 | 5.4% |
| Medway | 6,854 | 2.4% | 275 | 4.2% |
| Kent & Medway | 45,206 | 2.4% | 2,245 | 5.2% |
| South East | 186,077 | 2.0% | 8,567 | 4.8% |
| England | 1,170,034 | 2.0% | 37,263 | 3.3% |

Source: DWP

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Looking at the Kent local authority districts, Swale had the highest number of claimants at 4,859, equivalent to 3.1% of the resident population.

Tunbridge Wells had the lowest number of DLA claimants with 1,916, which was equivalent to a claimant rate of 1.7%.

All Kent districts saw the number of DLA claimants increase, the highest number and percentage change being in Canterbury (+259 claimants, +8.2%). Swale also saw an increase of 259 claimants though a lower percentage increase at 5.6%.

The DWP publishes data looking at DLA claimants by main medical reason for the claim.

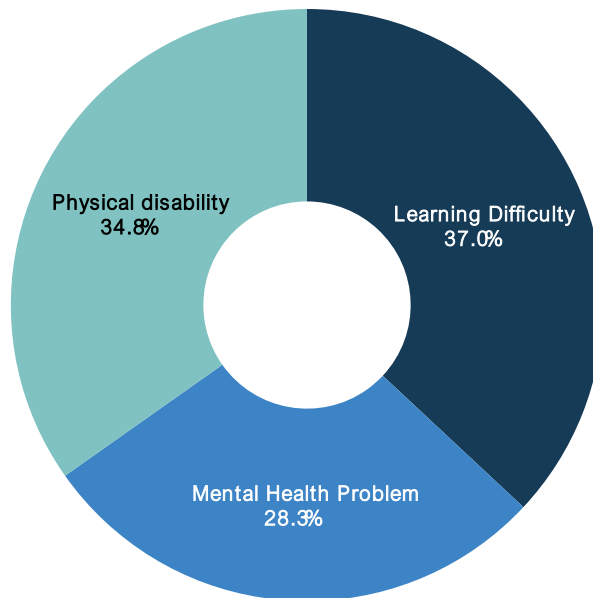
The individual medical causes for a claim can be aggregated into three groups, those with physical disabilities or health conditions; those with a learning difficulty and those who are claiming because of other mental health conditions.

Chart 8 shows those with a learning difficulty accounted for the largest proportion of DLA claims with 37.0% of all claims being made for that reason.

The number and proportion of DLA claimants in Kent by individual condition can be found in table 21 in the annexe at the end of this bulletin.

Chart 8: DLA claimants by condition

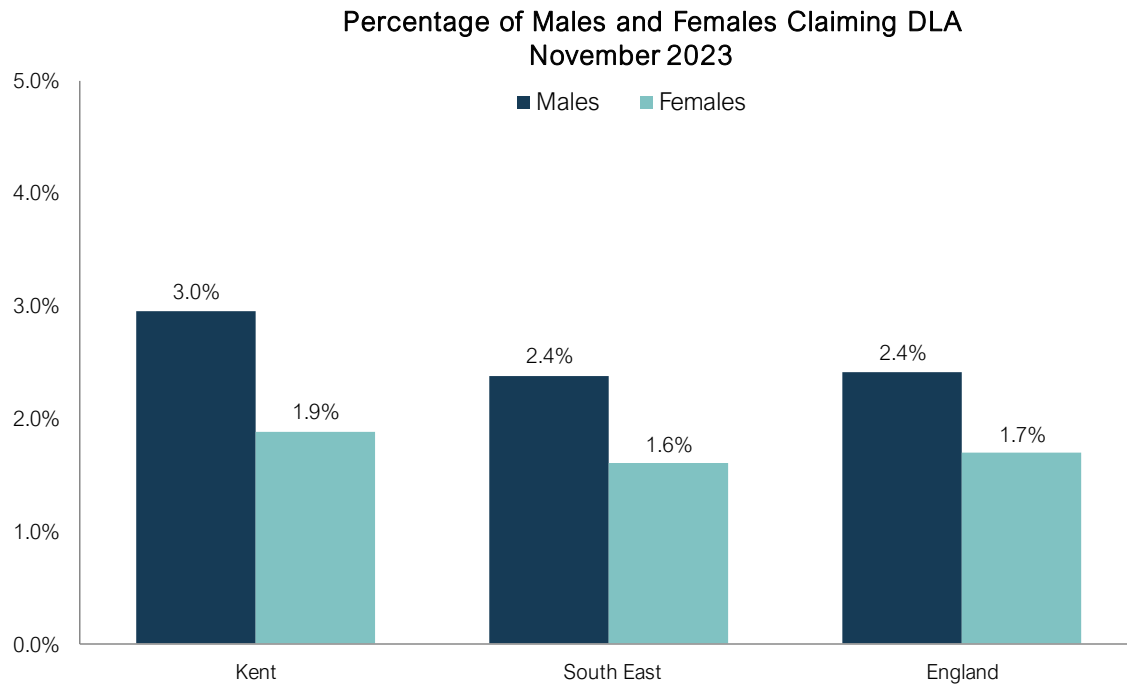
DLA claimants in Kent by grouped medical condition
November 2023



Source: DWP
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 9 and table 13 overleaf show the percentage of DLA claimants by sex in Kent compared to the South East and England. A higher proportion of males claim DLA than females. In Kent, in November 2023 the proportion of males who claimed DLA was 3.0%, above the national average of 2.4%. The proportion of females who claimed DLA was lower than males with 1.9% females claiming DLA in Kent, just above the national average of 1.7%.

Chart 9: DLA claimants by sex



Source: DWP
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 13: DLA claimants in Kent by sex

| Area | Males | Females | Male claimant rate | Female claimant rate |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Ashford | 2,028 | 1,406 | 3.1% | 2.0% |
| Canterbury | 2,048 | 1,387 | 2.7% | 1.7% |
| Dartford | 1,607 | 1,025 | 2.8% | 1.7% |
| Dover | 1,834 | 1,210 | 3.2% | 2.0% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 1,714 | 1,216 | 3.2% | 2.2% |
| Gravesham | 1,665 | 1,064 | 3.2% | 1.9% |
| Maidstone | 2,185 | 1,440 | 2.5% | 1.6% |
| Sevenoaks | 1,489 | 1,036 | 2.6% | 1.7% |
| Swale | 2,939 | 1,924 | 3.8% | 2.5% |
| Thanet | 2,630 | 1,783 | 3.9% | 2.4% |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 1,660 | 1,150 | 2.6% | 1.7% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 1,150 | 768 | 2.0% | 1.3% |
| Kent | 22,945 | 15,410 | 3.0% | 1.9% |
| Medway | 4,099 | 2,753 | 3.0% | 1.9% |
| Kent & Medway | 27,047 | 18,157 | 3.0% | 1.9% |
| South East | 109,306 | 76,774 | 2.4% | 1.6% |
| England | 676,012 | 494,018 | 2.4% | 1.7% |

Source: DWP
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Attendance Allowance

Attendance Allowance (AA) is a benefit paid to people who become disabled or unwell from the age of 65 onwards. It is a tax-free benefit which can be claimed by a person who needs help with personal care because of physical or mental disability.

AA claimant rates are calculated as a percentage of all people aged 65 and above.

Table 14 shows the number of people claiming AA in Kent districts as of November 2023. The table shows that 13.6% of people aged 65 and over in Kent were claiming AA. This was higher than the South East (12.0%) and slightly higher the national average of 13.4%.

Thanet district had the highest number of people aged 65 and over claiming AA (5,269 claimants) and Folkestone & Hythe had the highest proportion of claimants (16.0%). Dartford had the lowest number of claimants (2,243) while Tunbridge Wells had the lowest proportion of claimants (12.1%).

Table 14: Attendance Allowance Claimants in Kent Districts

| Area | Number November 2023 | Claimant rate | Change since November | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| | | | 2022 | % change |
| Ashford | 3,340 | 12.5% | 247 | 8.0% |
| Canterbury | 4,656 | 13.3% | 352 | 8.2% |
| Dartford | 2,243 | 13.8% | 202 | 9.9% |
| Dover | 3,903 | 13.7% | 334 | 9.4% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 4,493 | 16.0% | 330 | 7.9% |
| Gravesham | 2,532 | 13.7% | 124 | 5.1% |
| Maidstone | 4,461 | 13.0% | 417 | 10.3% |
| Sevenoaks | 3,435 | 13.0% | 243 | 7.6% |
| Swale | 4,061 | 13.7% | 363 | 9.8% |
| Thanet | 5,269 | 15.6% | 369 | 7.5% |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 3,324 | 12.9% | 247 | 8.0% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 2,776 | 12.1% | 221 | 8.6% |
| Kent | 44,493 | 13.6% | 3,443 | 8.4% |
| Medway | 6,508 | 13.9% | 481 | 8.0% |
| Kent & Medway | 51,005 | 13.7% | 3,935 | 8.4% |
| South East | 221,678 | 12.0% | 14,288 | 6.9% |
| England | 1,420,740 | 13.4% | 94,005 | 7.1% |

Source: DWP

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

The DWP publishes data looking at AA claimants by main medical reason for the claim.

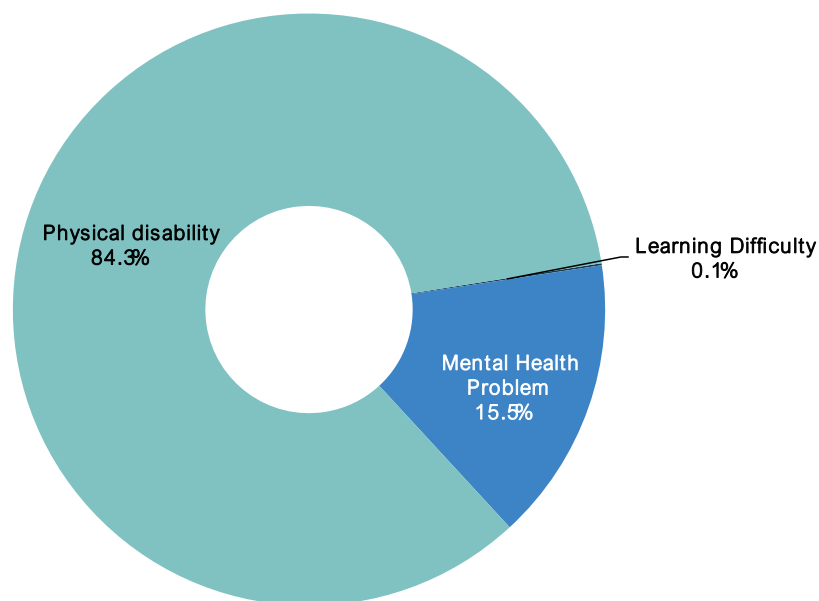
Chart 10 shows these medical causes combined into three groups to show those with physical disabilities or health conditions, those with a learning difficulty and those who are claiming because of other mental health conditions.

The main reason for claiming AA was for a physical disability or health condition accounting for 84.3% of all AA claims in Kent. There were very few claims for AA due to a learning difficulty.

The number and proportion of AA claimants in Kent by individual condition can be found in table 22 in the annexe at the end of this bulletin.

Chart 10: AA claimants by condition

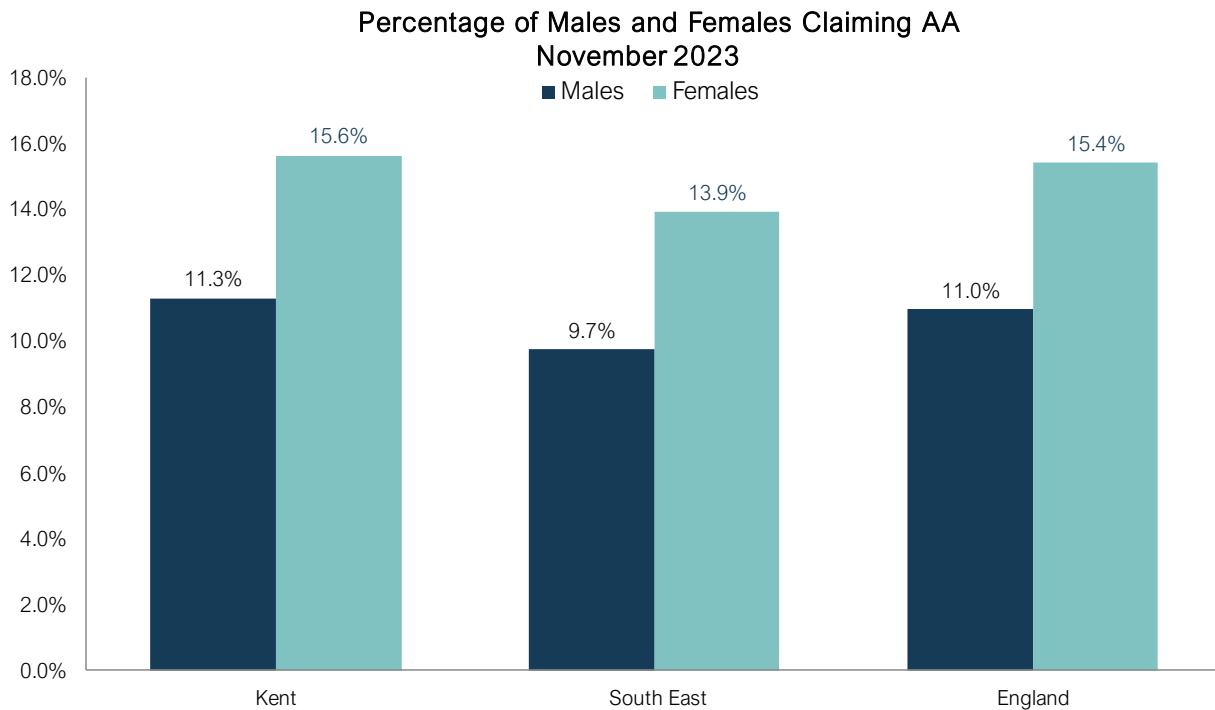
AA claimants in Kent by combined Medical Condition
November 2023



Source: DWP
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 11 overleaf shows AA claimants by sex. In Kent 15.6% females and 11.3% of males aged 65 and over claimed Attendance Allowance in November 2023.

Thanet district had the highest number of male and female claimants (males 2,021 and females 3,252) while Folkestone & Hythe had the highest proportions (13.5% of males and 18.2% of females).

Chart 11: AA claimants by sex


Source: DWP
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 15: AA claimants in Kent by sex

| Area | Males | Females | Male claimant rate | Female claimant rate |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Ashford | 1,278 | 2,062 | 10.4% | 14.2% |
| Canterbury | 1,699 | 2,954 | 10.8% | 15.3% |
| Dartford | 836 | 1,410 | 11.3% | 15.9% |
| Dover | 1,521 | 2,383 | 11.4% | 15.6% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 1,747 | 2,748 | 13.5% | 18.2% |
| Gravesham | 913 | 1,617 | 10.9% | 16.0% |
| Maidstone | 1,707 | 2,755 | 10.9% | 14.8% |
| Sevenoaks | 1,249 | 2,181 | 10.4% | 15.1% |
| Swale | 1,575 | 2,490 | 11.4% | 15.8% |
| Thanet | 2,021 | 3,252 | 13.3% | 17.6% |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 1,268 | 2,050 | 10.8% | 14.6% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 1,000 | 1,775 | 9.6% | 14.1% |
| Kent | 16,815 | 27,680 | 11.3% | 15.6% |
| Medway | 2,485 | 4,022 | 11.5% | 15.8% |
| Kent & Medway | 19,298 | 31,703 | 11.3% | 15.6% |
| South East | 81,800 | 139,879 | 9.7% | 13.9% |
| England | 534,130 | 886,612 | 11.0% | 15.4% |

Source: DWP
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Personal Independence Payment

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is a benefit introduced in 2013 and paid to people who become disabled or unwell between the age of 16 and 64. It is a tax-free benefit that can help cover the additional cost of personal help within the home or additional mobility needs outside the home. A person can claim PIP if they have had problems with daily living or mobility for at least three months, and those problems are expected to continue for at least another nine months.

PIP was first introduced in April 2013. From June 2013 this was expanded to include all new disability related claims in the country from anyone aged 16-64. Existing claimants of DLA in the country aged 16-64 are gradually being invited to claim PIP until all existing claimants have been reassessed.

In Kent in November 2023 there were 79,048 people (equating to 6.1% of the population aged 16 and above) claiming PIP, an increase of 9,363 since the previous year.

Table 16: Personal Independence Payment Claimants in Kent Districts

| Area | Number November 2023 | Claimant rate | Change since November 2022 | % change |
|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Ashford | 6,055 | 5.6% | 769 | 14.5% |
| Canterbury | 8,226 | 6.2% | 882 | 12.0% |
| Dartford | 4,619 | 5.0% | 590 | 14.6% |
| Dover | 7,528 | 7.8% | 807 | 12.0% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 7,391 | 8.0% | 717 | 10.7% |
| Gravesham | 5,241 | 6.2% | 650 | 14.2% |
| Maidstone | 7,265 | 5.0% | 992 | 15.8% |
| Sevenoaks | 3,967 | 4.1% | 521 | 15.1% |
| Swale | 9,641 | 7.8% | 1,202 | 14.2% |
| Thanet | 10,480 | 9.1% | 1,115 | 11.9% |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 4,897 | 4.6% | 682 | 16.2% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 3,758 | 4.0% | 456 | 13.8% |
| Kent | 79,048 | 6.1% | 9,363 | 13.4% |
| Medway | 15,412 | 6.9% | 1,770 | 13.0% |
| Kent & Medway | 94,463 | 6.2% | 11,137 | 13.4% |
| South East | 361,856 | 4.7% | 42,990 | 13.5% |
| England | 2,966,729 | 6.4% | 325,449 | 12.3% |

Source: DWP

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Thanet had the highest number and proportion of claimants (10,480 claimants, 9.1%). Tunbridge Wells had the lowest number and proportion of claimants (3,758 claimants, 4.0%).

Swale and Thanet saw the biggest increase in claimants since the previous year (+1,202 in Swale and +1,115 in Thanet).

The DWP publishes data looking at PIP claimants by main medical reason for the claim.

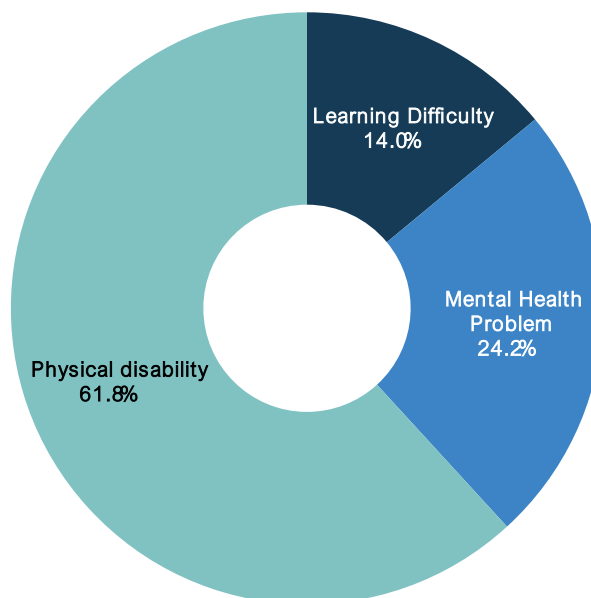
Chart 12 shows these medical causes combined into three groups to show those with physical disabilities or health conditions, those with a learning difficulty and those who are claiming because of mental health conditions.

The main reason for claiming PIP is for a physical disability or health condition accounting for 61.8% of claims.

The number and proportion of PIP claimants in Kent by individual condition can be found in table 23 in the annexe at the end of this bulletin.

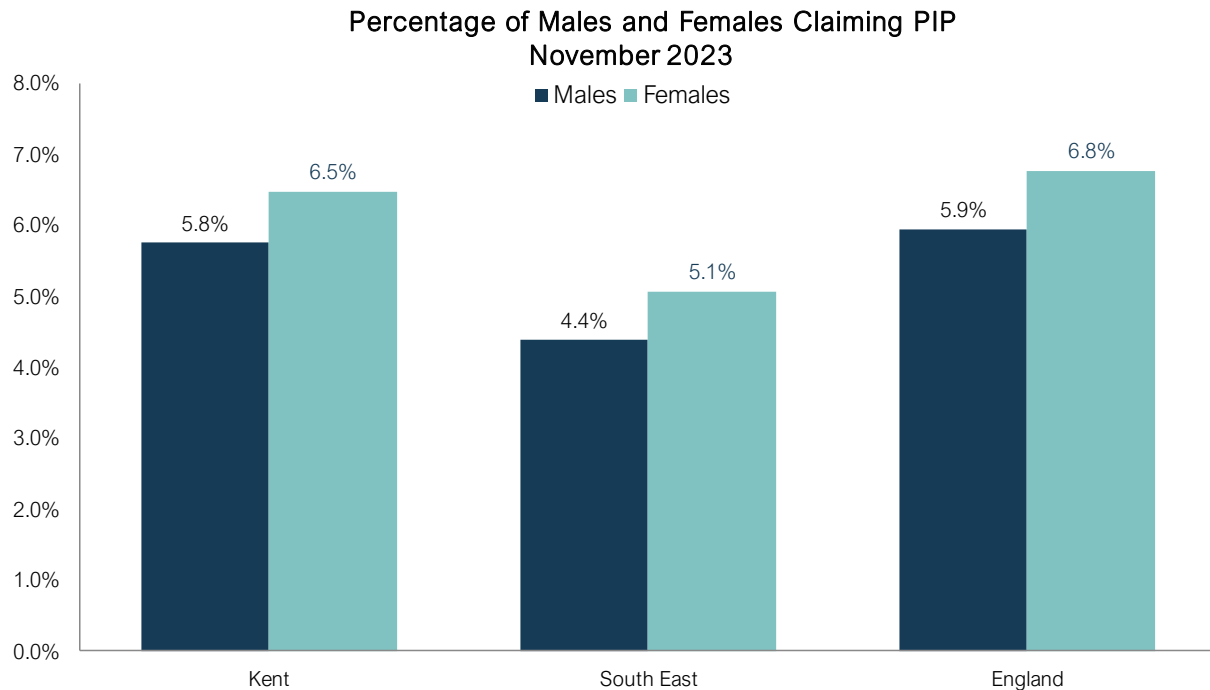
Chart 12: PIP Claimants by condition

PIP claimants in Kent by combined Medical Condition
November 2023



Source: DWP
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 13 on the next page shows the PIP claimants by sex. In Kent 6.5% females and 5.8% of males claimed PIP as of November 2023.

Chart 13: PIP claimants by sex


Source: DWP
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 17: PIP claimants in Kent by sex

| Area | Males | Females | Male claimant rate | Female claimant rate |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Ashford | 2,567 | 3,487 | 4.9% | 6.2% |
| Canterbury | 3,719 | 4,505 | 5.9% | 6.5% |
| Dartford | 2,054 | 2,562 | 4.6% | 5.4% |
| Dover | 3,500 | 4,030 | 7.5% | 8.0% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 3,380 | 4,009 | 7.6% | 8.4% |
| Gravesham | 2,362 | 2,877 | 5.8% | 6.6% |
| Maidstone | 3,247 | 4,019 | 4.6% | 5.4% |
| Sevenoaks | 1,716 | 2,247 | 3.7% | 4.4% |
| Swale | 4,462 | 5,175 | 7.3% | 8.2% |
| Thanet | 4,774 | 5,705 | 8.8% | 9.4% |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 2,194 | 2,703 | 4.3% | 4.9% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 1,724 | 2,037 | 3.9% | 4.2% |
| Kent | 35,692 | 43,362 | 5.8% | 6.5% |
| Medway | 6,965 | 8,449 | 6.4% | 7.3% |
| Kent & Medway | 42,654 | 51,806 | 5.9% | 6.6% |
| South East | 162,148 | 199,711 | 4.4% | 5.1% |
| England | 1,342,647 | 1,624,085 | 5.9% | 6.8% |

Source: DWP
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Annual Population Survey

The Annual Population Survey (APS) is a residence-based labour market survey of 170,000 homes (360,000 persons) in Great Britain a year carried out by the Office for National Statistics. The survey results provide estimates of aspects of the workforce such as employment, unemployment and inactivity rates and educational qualifications. It looks at people aged 16-64.

The APS is a sample survey, so the responses reflect only a small proportion of the total population. The sample sizes at county level are reasonably robust, though are still subject to some sampling variation. The data is less robust at district level so results at district level should be interpreted with caution.

Part of the survey asks people about their activity or inactivity levels and the reasons for any inactivity. Respondents self-evaluate whether they are disabled and to what degree and so the results are not based on a medical assessment. Many people who have an impairment or ill health may not consider themselves disabled while others suffering with a similar condition may consider themselves disabled to varying extents.

The data is available to local authority district level and estimates the number of people who have a disability either based on the Equalities Act 2010 definition of disability which defines disability as a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on the person's ability to do normal daily activities (EA core disabled), or those who have a long term disability or health problem which affects the work that they can do (WL core disabled). This data set therefore provides an indication of how many people in the Kent workforce are disabled.

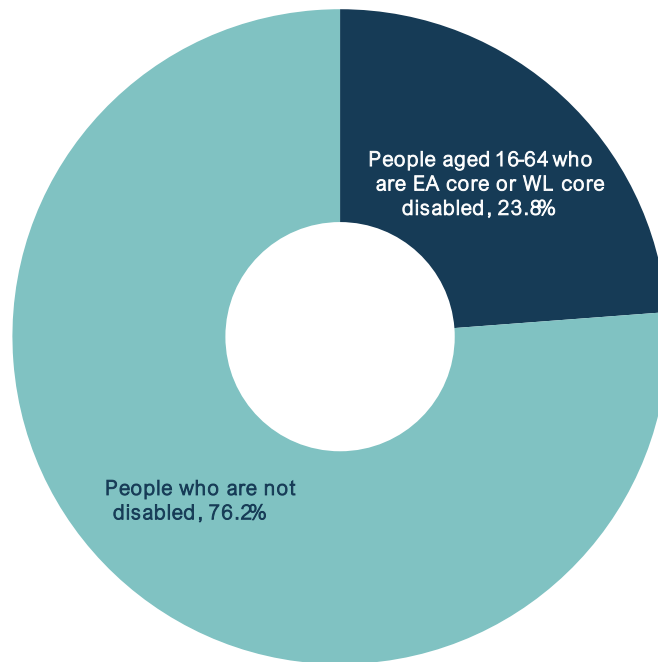
The data presented here is for the year January 2023 to December 2023.

In Kent, an estimated 23.8% of people aged 16-64 considered them self to be disabled, this is a slightly higher proportion than was seen in the South East (23.3%) though lower than England as a whole (24.4%).

Chart 14 shows the proportion of the Kent population who considered themselves disabled compared to those who did not.

Chart 14: Disabled population aged 16-64

% of 16 - 64 population in Kent who are disabled
Jan 2023- Dec 2023



Source: Annual Population Survey
Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 18 overleaf shows the number of people aged 16-64 in Kent local authority districts who considered themselves disabled in the 12-month period to December 2023.

Maidstone had the highest estimated number of people aged 16-64 who considered themselves disabled (33,200). This was equivalent to 31.7% of the 16-64 population.

Dover had the highest estimated proportion of 16-64 year-olds who considered themselves disabled (34.7%).

Tunbridge Wells had the lowest estimated number and proportion of 16-64 year-olds who considered themselves disabled (10,000 people, equivalent to 14.4% of all people aged 16-64).

Table 18: People aged 16-64 who consider themselves disabled

| Area | Population aged 16-64 | People aged 16-64 who are EA or WL disabled | % People aged 16-64 who are disabled |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Ashford | 79,400 | 16,300 | 20.5% |
| Canterbury | 104,300 | 25,000 | 24.0% |
| Dartford | 70,400 | 13,400 | 19.0% |
| Dover | 67,400 | 23,400 | 34.7% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 63,600 | 14,500 | 22.8% |
| Gravesham | 69,900 | 23,400 | 33.5% |
| Maidstone | 104,700 | 33,200 | 31.7% |
| Sevenoaks | 72,700 | 12,100 | 16.6% |
| Swale | 91,300 | 17,200 | 18.8% |
| Thanet | 81,300 | 27,000 | 33.2% |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 79,000 | 11,700 | 14.8% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 69,600 | 10,000 | 14.4% |
| Kent | 953,600 | 227,000 | 23.8% |
| Medway | 180,400 | 48,900 | 27.1% |
| Kent + Medway | 1,134,000 | 275,900 | 24.3% |
| South East | 5,628,200 | 1,311,500 | 23.3% |
| England | 35,135,400 | 8,579,500 | 24.4% |

Source: Annual Population Survey

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

The estimated employment rate of people with a disability in Kent was 54.7%, below the South East average rate of 63.1% and the national average rate of 57.3%.

Gravesham district had the highest estimated proportion of people who were disabled and in employment than anywhere else in the county (81.2%).

Table 19: Employment rate of people with a disability

| Area | People aged 16-64 who are EA core or WL core disabled | People aged 16-64 who are EA core or WL core disabled and in employment | Employment rate of People aged 16-64 who are EA core or WL core disabled |
|---------------------|---|---|--|
| Ashford | 16,300 | 3,500 | 21.5% |
| Canterbury | 25,000 | 11,700 | 46.8% |
| Dartford | 13,400 | 8,900 | 66.4% |
| Dover | 23,400 | 9,100 | 38.9% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 14,500 | 5,000 | 34.5% |
| Gravesham | 23,400 | 19,000 | 81.2% |
| Maidstone | 33,200 | 19,800 | 59.6% |
| Sevenoaks | 12,100 | 5,900 | 48.8% |
| Swale | 17,200 | 10,100 | 58.7% |
| Thanet | 27,000 | 17,000 | 63.0% |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 11,700 | 6,900 | 59.0% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 10,000 | 7,300 | 73.0% |
| Kent | 227,000 | 124,100 | 54.7% |
| Medway | 48,900 | 30,100 | 61.6% |
| Kent + Medway | 275,900 | 154,200 | 55.9% |
| South East | 1,311,500 | 827,900 | 63.1% |
| England | 8,579,500 | 4,915,800 | 57.3% |

Source: Annual Population Survey

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

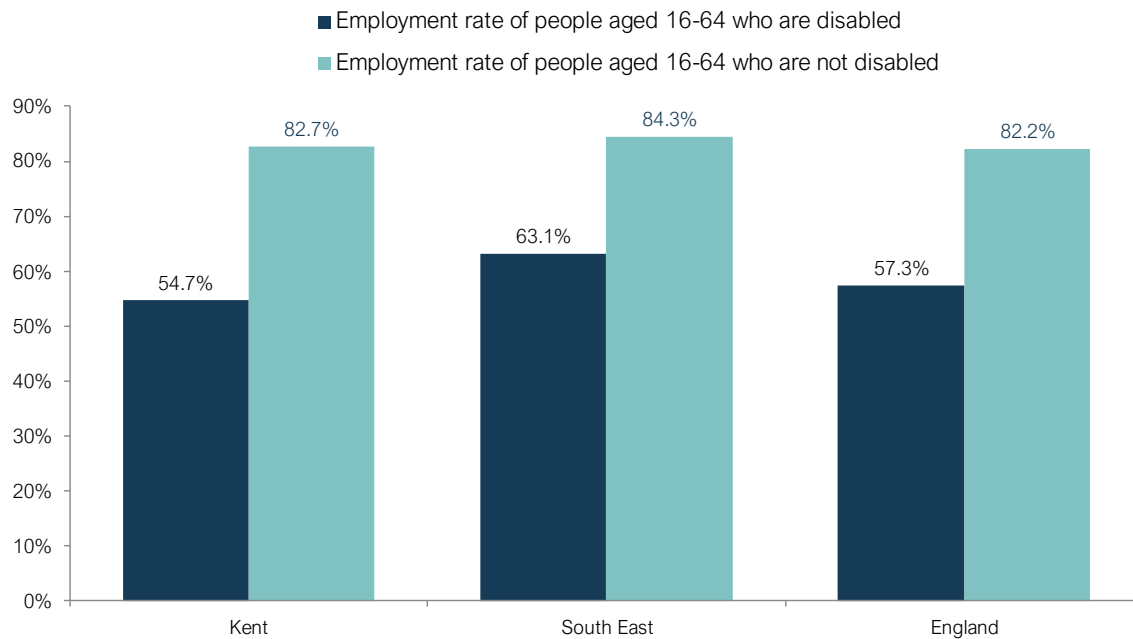
Chart 15 and table 20 show the estimated proportion of people without a disability who are in employment compared to the employment rate of those people with a disability.

In Kent 82.7% of people who were not disabled were in employment compared to 54.7% of those people who said that they were disabled.

The biggest difference in employment rates was in Ashford where an estimated 80.2% of people without a disability were in employment compared to 21.5% of those who said they had a disability.

Chart 15: Employment rate of people with a disability compared to those without

Employment rate of those who are disabled compared to those who are not
Jan to Dec 2023



Source: Annual Population Survey
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 20: Employment rate of people with a disability compared to those without

| Area | Employment rate of People aged 16-64 who are not disabled | Employment rate of People aged 16-64 who are disabled |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Ashford | 80.2% | 21.5% |
| Canterbury | 73.9% | 46.8% |
| Dartford | 91.1% | 66.4% |
| Dover | 89.4% | 38.9% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 74.8% | 34.5% |
| Gravesham | 87.8% | 81.2% |
| Maidstone | 80.4% | 59.6% |
| Sevenoaks | 79.7% | 48.8% |
| Swale | 85.8% | 58.7% |
| Thanet | 76.1% | 63.0% |
| Tonbridge and Malling | 90.9% | 59.0% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 84.5% | 73.0% |
| Kent | 82.7% | 54.7% |
| Medway | 82.6% | 61.6% |
| Kent + Medway | 82.7% | 55.9% |
| South East | 84.3% | 63.1% |
| England | 82.2% | 57.3% |

Source: Annual Population Survey
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Annexe

Please note that all numbers are individually rounded at source and therefore percentages may not sum to 100%.

Table 21: DLA claimants in Kent by individual condition, November 2023

| Condition | Number of claimants | % of total DLA claimants |
|--|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Learning Difficulties | 13,565 | 35.4% |
| Behavioural Disorder | 5,571 | 14.5% |
| Hyperkinetic Syndrome | 3,406 | 8.9% |
| Arthritis | 3,279 | 8.5% |
| Unknown/Transfer from AA | 1,460 | 3.8% |
| Disease Of The Muscles, Bones or Joints | 1,126 | 2.9% |
| Neurological Diseases | 1,093 | 2.8% |
| Back Pain - Other / Precise Diagnosis not Specified | 939 | 2.4% |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 682 | 1.8% |
| Psychosis | 607 | 1.6% |
| Psychoneurosis | 594 | 1.5% |
| Cerebrovascular Disease | 528 | 1.4% |
| Visual Disorders and Diseases | 507 | 1.3% |
| Heart Disease | 466 | 1.2% |
| Spondylosis | 463 | 1.2% |
| Hearing Disorders | 457 | 1.2% |
| Respiratory Disorders and Diseases | 426 | 1.1% |
| Multiple Sclerosis | 421 | 1.1% |
| Epilepsy | 357 | 0.9% |
| Trauma to Limbs | 305 | 0.8% |
| Malignant Disease | 262 | 0.7% |
| Chronic Pain Syndromes | 202 | 0.5% |
| Severely Mentally impaired | 162 | 0.4% |
| Bowel and Stomach Disease | 135 | 0.4% |
| Major Trauma Other than Traumatic Paraplegia/Tetraplegia | 123 | 0.3% |
| Asthma | 116 | 0.3% |
| Skin Disease | 107 | 0.3% |
| Dementia | 105 | 0.3% |
| Parkinsons Disease | 96 | 0.3% |
| Cystic Fibrosis | 87 | 0.2% |
| Renal Disorders | 85 | 0.2% |
| Metabolic Disease | 76 | 0.2% |
| Terminally Ill | 74 | 0.2% |
| Inflammatory Bowel Disease | 66 | 0.2% |

| Condition | Number of claimants | % of total DLA claimants |
|--|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Personality Disorder | 61 | 0.2% |
| Multi System Disorders | 56 | 0.1% |
| Peripheral vascular Disease | 54 | 0.1% |
| Traumatic Paraplegia/Tetraplegia | 47 | 0.1% |
| Blood Disorders | 42 | 0.1% |
| Alcohol and Drug Abuse | 28 | 0.1% |
| AIDS | 27 | 0.1% |
| Haemophilia | 26 | 0.1% |
| Motor Neurone Disease | 12 | 0.0% |
| Cognitive disorder - other / precise diagnosis not specified | 10 | 0.0% |
| Double Amputee | 6 | 0.0% |
| Multiple Allergy Syndrome | 5 | 0.0% |
| Deaf/Blind | 5 | 0.0% |
| Infectious diseases: Viral disease - Coronavirus covid-19 | 5 | 0.0% |

Source: DWP

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 22: AA claimants in Kent by individual condition, November 2023

| Condition | Number of claimants | % of total AA claimants |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Arthritis | 11,721 | 26.3% |
| Dementia | 5,718 | 12.9% |
| Unknown | 3,502 | 7.9% |
| Heart Disease | 3,081 | 6.9% |
| Respiratory Disorders and Diseases | 2,806 | 6.3% |
| Disease Of The Muscles, Bones or Joints | 2,194 | 4.9% |
| Back Pain - Other / Precise Diagnosis not Specified | 2,078 | 4.7% |
| Cerebrovascular Disease | 1,917 | 4.3% |
| Terminally Ill | 1,510 | 3.4% |
| Malignant Disease | 1,373 | 3.1% |
| Parkinsons Disease | 1,266 | 2.8% |
| Visual Disorders and Diseases | 1,263 | 2.8% |
| Neurological Diseases | 914 | 2.1% |
| Cognitive disorder - other / precise diagnosis not specified | 638 | 1.4% |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 547 | 1.2% |
| Spondylosis | 526 | 1.2% |
| Trauma to Limbs | 517 | 1.2% |
| Renal Disorders | 483 | 1.1% |
| Psychosis | 348 | 0.8% |
| Hearing Disorders | 270 | 0.6% |

| Condition | Number of claimants | % of total AA claimants |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Psychoneurosis | 253 | 0.6% |
| Multi System Disorders | 232 | 0.5% |
| Bowel and Stomach Disease | 195 | 0.4% |
| Peripheral vascular Disease | 157 | 0.4% |
| Chronic Pain Syndromes | 126 | 0.3% |
| Asthma | 110 | 0.2% |
| Frailty | 102 | 0.2% |
| Skin Disease | 99 | 0.2% |
| Epilepsy | 96 | 0.2% |
| Multiple Sclerosis | 93 | 0.2% |
| Metabolic Disease | 53 | 0.1% |
| Inflammatory Bowel Disease | 50 | 0.1% |
| Major Trauma Other than Traumatic Paraplegia/Tetraplegia | 48 | 0.1% |
| Learning Difficulties | 43 | 0.1% |
| Alcohol and Drug Abuse | 38 | 0.1% |
| Blood Disorders | 34 | 0.1% |
| Motor Neurone Disease | 22 | 0.0% |
| Infectious diseases: Viral disease - Coronavirus covid-19 | 15 | 0.0% |
| Behavioural Disorder | 12 | 0.0% |
| Traumatic Paraplegia/Tetraplegia | 10 | 0.0% |
| AIDS | 6 | 0.0% |
| Infectious diseases - other / precise diagnosis not specified | 6 | 0.0% |
| Haemodialysis | 5 | 0.0% |

Source: DWP

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 23: PIP claimants in Kent by individual condition, November 2023

| Condition | Number of claimants | % of total PIP claimants |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Psychiatric disorders | 30,791 | 38.2% |
| Musculoskeletal disease (general) | 15,565 | 19.3% |
| Musculoskeletal disease (regional) | 9,976 | 12.4% |
| Neurological disease | 9,778 | 12.1% |
| Autistic spectrum disorders | 6,286 | 7.8% |
| Learning disability global | 3,986 | 5.0% |
| Respiratory disease | 3,061 | 3.8% |
| Malignant disease | 2,522 | 3.1% |
| Cardiovascular disease | 1,862 | 2.3% |
| Visual disease | 1,243 | 1.5% |
| Endocrine disease | 1,165 | 1.4% |

| Condition | Number of claimants | % of total PIP claimants |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Specific learning disorder | 932 | 1.2% |
| Hearing disorders | 901 | 1.1% |
| Gastrointestinal disease | 813 | 1.0% |
| Skin disease | 642 | 0.8% |
| Genitourinary disease | 577 | 0.7% |
| Autoimmune disease (connective tissue disorders) | 485 | 0.6% |
| Unknown or missing | 298 | 0.4% |
| Diseases of the liver, gallbladder, biliary tract | 277 | 0.3% |
| Infectious disease | 214 | 0.3% |
| Haematological Disease | 169 | 0.2% |
| Metabolic disease | 106 | 0.1% |
| Multisystem and extremes of age | 50 | 0.1% |
| Diseases of the immune system | 30 | 0.0% |

Source: DWP

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Related documents

Additional information from the 2021 Census can be found on our [Census](#) pages.

Information about DWP benefit claimants can be found on our [Unemployment & Benefits](#) page.