

7th November 2002

Coverage: Great Britain
Theme: Social and Welfare

CLIENT GROUP ANALYSIS OF THE POPULATION OVER STATE PENSION AGE: MAY 2002

The Client Group Analysis of the Population Over State Pension Age for May 2002 is published today. This continues the series on the population over state pension age in Great Britain in receipt of key Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) benefits. The series has been developed from existing data on individual benefits to give a more coherent picture for this client group. It is published on a regular basis via the attached statistical bulletin. See notes to editors for further details.

The main findings are:-

- In May 2002, approximately 10.4 million, or 99% of people over state pension age and resident in Great Britain, claimed at least one of the key DWP benefits.
- The number of people over state pension age receiving one of the key DWP benefits rose by 223 thousand between May 1997 and May 2002. In the year to May 2002 the number of claimants increased by 54 thousand.
- In May 2002, the proportion of women claiming at least one of the key state benefits is slightly lower than for men; 98% compared with 100 % respectively.

DWP Department for Work and Pensions

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Analytical Services Directorate
Department for Work and Pensions

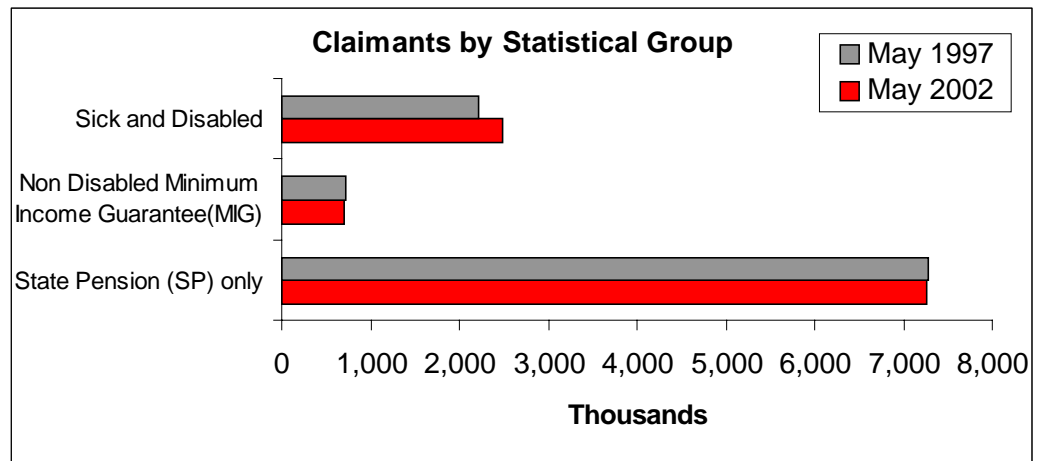
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- The **sick and/or disabled** statistical group has increased by 263 thousand during the period May 1997 to May 2002. In the year to May 2002 the number within this statistical group increased by 43 thousand.
- During the period May 1997 to May 2002, the **non-disabled MIG** statistical group fell by 16 thousand. In the year to May 2002 the number within this statistical group increased by 26 thousand. This group's caseload fell between May 1997 and May 2000 but has risen again – almost back to its May 1997 level – since.
- The **SP only** statistical group has decreased by 23 thousand in the period May 1997 to May 2002. In the year to May 2002 the number within this statistical group decreased by 15 thousand.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Background information

DWP Information Centre (Analytical Services Directorate) has developed these analyses from its existing samples of administrative data on the population over state pension age. This work was done primarily to help improve the relevance of DWP data to monitor the Government's Welfare Reform agenda. By matching data from individual 5% samples, an estimate can be made of the number of people who were claiming at least one of the key benefits that are available to the population over state pension age, with the main exception of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit. Information on the key characteristics of these claimants is also available, such as age, sex, and statistical group. It is also possible to look at changes in the composition of this group in the benefits system over time, including those that affect individual claimants.

Prior to the November 2001 bulletin, the client group datasets for those above state pension age in receipt of key benefits had excluded some people where the underlying individual benefits data was inconsistent e.g. State Pension (SP) data suggested pensioner was also receiving the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG), whereas MIG data suggested they were not. Previous analysis suggested that many of these people had, in fact, recently died, and hence they were removed from the client group datasets and published figures.

However, ahead of the November 2001 bulletin, extensive additional investigations were carried out, and it was discovered that the situation was more complicated than previously thought. Firstly, it was found that not all of the cases previously removed were actually dead, and secondly that there was no automatic way of identifying whether cases were dead or not. Therefore, everyone shown as a live claim on the underlying individual benefits data is now included within the pensioner client group datasets and statistics produced from them. In order to achieve consistent time series, all client group datasets back to May 1997 have been reran to reinstate all 'additional dead' cases previously removed. Thus, all time series in this bulletin (e.g. table 1.1) now include these cases.

Although no longer removed because of it not being possible to identify them automatically and accurately, it is thought that the number of additional dead cases is around 50 thousand at any one time, consistent across time periods. Put another way, **it is estimated that the total number of people over state pension age in Great Britain in receipt of key benefits reported by this bulletin is an over-estimate of around 50 thousand, consistent across time periods.** The over-estimate is principally due to people who have recently died still being recorded as a live claim on the SP data, caused by the time lag between death of the claimant and the department being notified and then updating the SP computer system. The problem of dead cases in the pensioner client group datasets is concentrated in the 90+ age group, especially the 100+ age group.

Figures are published on a six monthly basis via the attached statistical bulletin. The definitive estimates of caseloads and characteristics of claimants of each individual benefit can be found in the separate publications and first releases that ASD Information Centre also issues on behalf of DWP.

The full version of this bulletin in Adobe acrobat format is placed on the internet on the DWP website. The full address is: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/pensioners.html>

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Population Over State Pension Age: May 2002
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**DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS
Analytical Services Directorate**

**Client Group Analysis on the Population
Over State Pension Age Claiming Key Benefits:
May 2002**

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Definitions and conventions

1. Key benefits

Attendance Allowance (AA)

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

Incapacity Benefit (IB)

Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) (i.e. Income Support for those aged 60+)

State Pension (SP)

Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA)

2. Statistical groups

Sick and/or disabled

Claimant receiving one or more of AA, DLA, IB, SDA

or receiving MIG and one of the following

- single and aged 60-79 in receipt of a Higher Pensioner Premium (HPP) due to disability;
- in a residential care or nursing home;
- sick days being recorded;
- hospitalised

or receiving SP and one of the following

- in hospital;
- have an Invalidity Allowance (IVA), AA or DLA indicator on their SP record

Non Disabled MIG MIG claimants not included in the sick and/or disabled category

SP only SP claimants not in other statistical groups above

Note that the statistical groups refer only to DWP benefits. The majority of claimants within the **SP only** statistical group will also be receiving income from other sources e.g. occupational pensions and investments.

3. Benefit combinations

Statistical group

Sick and/or disabled

- 1 AA or DLA
- 2 IB or SDA
- 3 One of AA or DLA and one of IB or SDA
- 4 MIG only (disability-related Higher Pensioner Premium) or MIG with one or more of AA, DLA, IB and SDA
- 5 SP only and in hospital or with an Invalidity Allowance (IVA), AA or DLA indicator on their SP record
- 6 SP and receiving AA or DLA
- 7 SP and MIG
- 8 SP and MIG and receiving AA or DLA

Non Disabled MIG

- 9 MIG claimants not included in sick and/or disabled statistical group

SP Only

- 10 SP claimants not in other statistical groups

4. Symbols and conventions

The population over state pension age is defined as men aged 65 and over (including men aged exactly 65) and women aged 60 and over (including women aged exactly 60).

Population estimates used for comparison with the May 2002 figures are mid-year figures for 2001, the latest published. The source of the population estimates is the Office for National Statistics for England and Wales and the General Register Office for Scotland.

“-” less than 500

“.” not applicable

Tables may not sum due to rounding.

Symbols and abbreviations

..	Not available	IVA	Invalidity Allowance
.	Not applicable	IVB	Invalidity Benefit
-	Nil or negligible	MIG	Minimum Income Guarantee
£pw	Pounds per week	NI	National Insurance
AA	Attendance Allowance	No.	Number
CGA	Client Group Analysis	SP	State Pension
CTB	Council Tax Benefit	SDA	Severe Disablement Allowance
DLA	Disability Living Allowance	SERPS	State Earnings Related Pension Scheme
HB	Housing Benefit		
IB	Incapacity Benefit		

Section 1 – Age and Gender

Table 1.1 Claimants of key benefits by gender:
May 1997 – May 2002

	<i>Thousands</i>					
	May 1997	May 1998	May 1999	May 2001	May 2001	May 2002
All	10,219	10,276	10,304	10,338	10,388	10,442
% of pop¹						99
Men	3,686	3,715	3,737	3,769	3,806	3,850
% of pop¹						100
Women	6,533	6,561	6,567	6,569	6,582	6,593
% of pop¹						98

1. Population of GB residents above state pension age. Population data sources Office for National Statistics (ONS) and General Register Office, Scotland (GROS). May 2002 percentages derived from mid 2001 population estimates, based on 2001 Census. Population figures for years before 2001 and consistent with 2001 are not available until February 2003.

- In May 2002, approximately 10.4 million, or 99% of people over state pension age and resident in Great Britain, claimed at least one of the key DWP benefits.
- The proportion of women claiming at least one of the key state benefits is slightly lower than for men; 98% compared with 100% respectively.

Table 1.2 Claimants of key benefits by age and gender: May 2002

	<i>Thousands</i>					
	All		Male		Female	
		% of pop¹		% of pop¹		% of pop¹
All ages	10,442	99	3,850	100	6,593	98
60-64	1,262		.		1,262	
65-69	2,479		1,179		1,300	
70-74	2,294		1,053		1,242	
75-79	1,890		799		1,091	
80-84	1,338		496		842	
85-89	753		231		522	
90+	427		92		335	

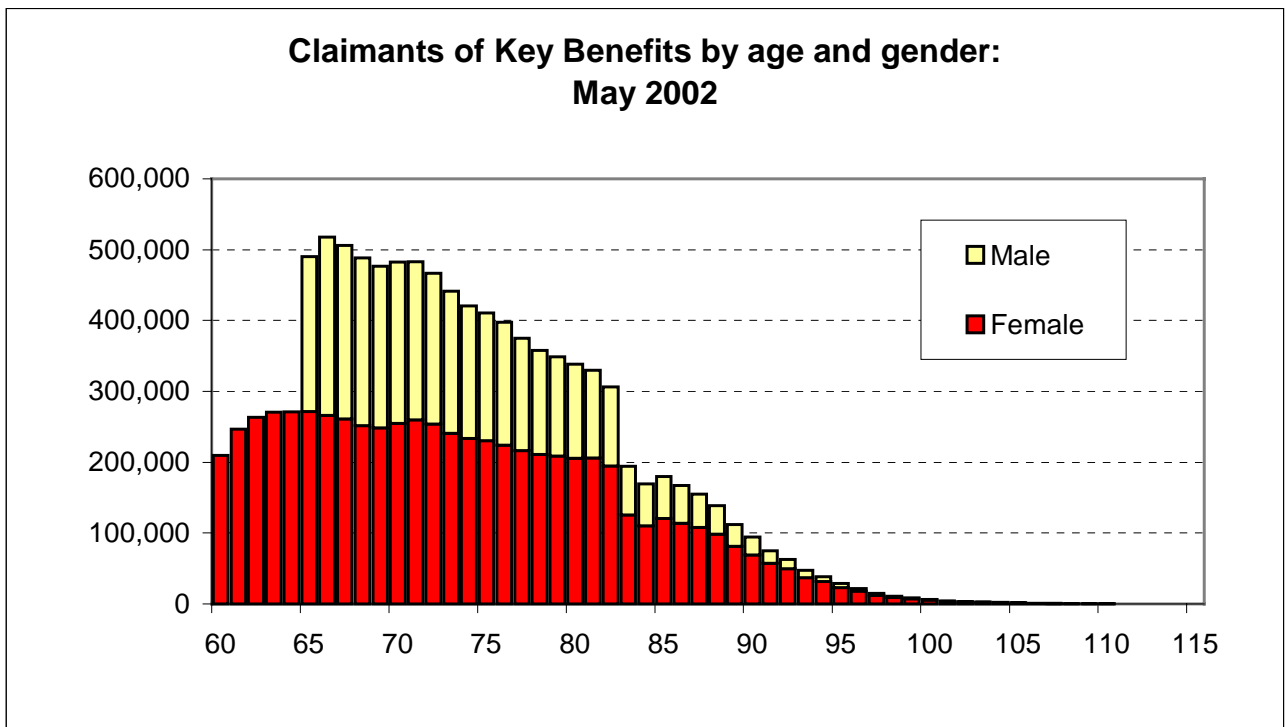
1. Population of GB residents above state pension age. Population data sources Office for National Statistics (ONS) and General Register Office, Scotland (GROS). May 2002 percentages derived from mid 2001 population estimates, based on 2001 Census. Population figures for years before 2001 and consistent with 2001 are not available until February 2003.

- Table 1.2 no longer shows the proportion of the pensioner population on one of the key benefits by age bands. Due to the DWP improving the timeliness of this bulletin, the population estimates are now around a year behind the benefits data.

Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

- The mismatch between the benefits data and the population estimates is particularly marked for people in their early 80s in May 2002, due to the effects of the First World War. The lower than normal number of births during the war years and the period immediately after was followed by a baby boom, the first age cohorts of which are now 82 years old (see chart 1.1 below). In May 2002, the benefit caseload for those aged 82 (high due to the baby boom) is divided by the 2001 population estimate for those aged 82 (low due to the low birth rate immediately after the war, just before the baby boom). This causes large anomalies and distorts the real situation, which is that virtually everyone above 70 years of age is on one or more of the key benefits.
- It is estimated that the total number of people over state pension age in Great Britain in receipt of key benefits reported by this bulletin is an over-estimate of around 50 thousand, consistent across time periods. The over-estimate is principally due to people who have recently died still being recorded as a live claim on the SP data, caused by the time lag between death of the claimant and the department being notified and then updating the SP computer system. The problem of dead cases in the pensioner client group datasets is concentrated in the 90+ age group, especially the 100+ age group. The caseloads for those aged 90+ shown in table 1.2 and chart 1.1 are thought to be over-estimates of up to 10 thousand for men and at least 20 thousand for women.
- See section on Population Estimates (page 30) for a fuller discussion of other possible factors that can account for differences between the DWP data and the population estimates.

Chart 1.1



- The marked dip in the number of people aged 83 and 84 is due to the lower than normal number of babies born during and immediately after the First World War (1914 -1918). The significantly higher numbers in the age group aged 82 and below reflects the baby boom after the end of the war (Chart 1.1).

Section 2 – Statistical Groups

The claimants of these key benefits can be divided into customer or statistical groups based mainly on the type of benefits they receive (see section on definitions and conventions). This gives an indication of their contacts with the benefit system. Please note that the statistical groups are hierarchical and a case will be allocated to the first group for which it qualifies. Thus, for example, a significant proportion of the Minimum Income Guarantee caseload is included within the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group.

**Table 2.1 Claimants by statistical group:
May 1997 – May 2002**

Thousands and percentages¹

	May 1997 All	% of pop ¹	May 1998 All	% of pop ¹	May 1999 All	% of pop ¹	May 2000 All	% of pop ¹	May 2001 All	% of pop ¹	May 2002 All	% of pop ¹
All	10,219		10,276		10,304		10,338		10,388		10,442	99
Sick and/or Disabled	2,219		2,295		2,346		2,382		2,439		2,482	24
Non Disabled MIG	723		654		611		593		681		707	7
SP only	7,276		7,327		7,346		7,363		7,268		7,253	69

1. Population of GB residents above state pension age. Population data sources Office for National Statistics (ONS) and General Register Office, Scotland (GROS). May 2002 percentages derived from mid 2001 population estimates, based on 2001 Census. Population figures for years before 2001 and consistent with 2001 are not available until February 2003.

- Overall, the number of people over state pension age receiving one of the key DWP benefits rose by 223 thousand between May 1997 and May 2002.
- The **sick and/or disabled** group has increased by 263 thousand during the period May 1997 to May 2002. In the year to May 2002 the number within this statistical group increased by 43 thousand.
- During the period May 1997 to May 2002, the **non-disabled MIG** statistical group fell by 16 thousand. In the year to May 2002 the number within this statistical group increased by 26 thousand. This group's caseload fell between May 1997 and May 2000 but has risen again – almost back to its May 1997 level – since.
- The **SP only** statistical group has decreased by 23 thousand in the period May 1997 to May 2002. In the year to May 2002 the number within this statistical group decreased by 15 thousand.

Table 2.2 Claimants by statistical group and gender: May 2002

	<i>Thousands and percentages¹</i>					
	All	% of pop ¹	Male	% of pop ¹	Female	% of pop ¹
All	10,442	99	3,850	100	6,593	98
Sick and/or Disabled	2,482	24	890	23	1,592	24
Non Disabled MIG	707	7	180	5	527	8
SP only	7,253	69	2,780	72	4,473	68

1. Population of GB residents above pension age. Percentages shown as 100 may actually have been calculated as slightly higher than 100 i.e. the benefit caseload is apparently at least as high, if not higher, than the corresponding population figure. This can occur because the latest population estimates available are around a year behind the benefit data and/or because of slight inaccuracies associated with the data sources themselves.

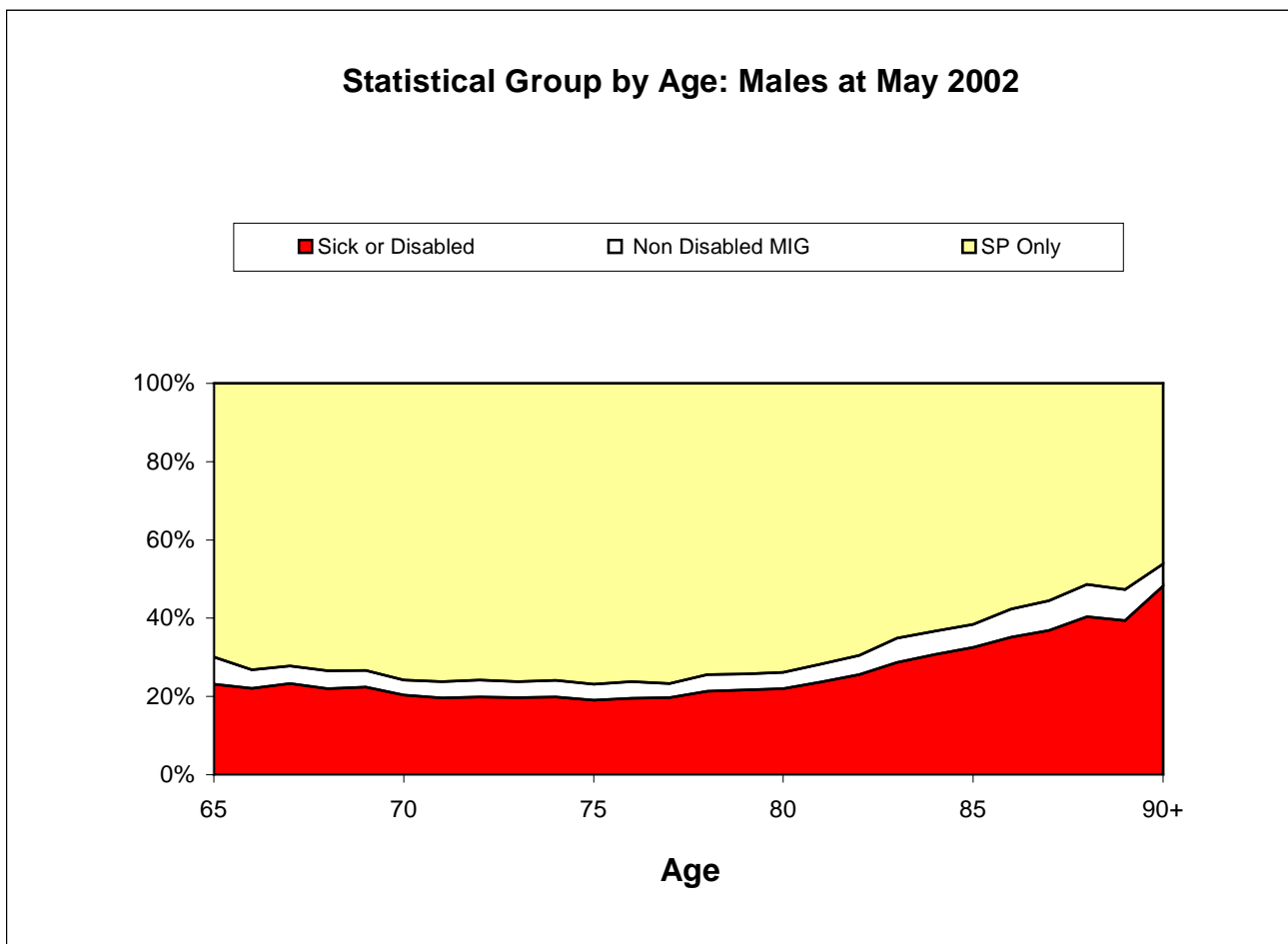
Table 2.3 Claimant by statistical group, age and gender: May 2002

	<i>Thousands</i>			
	All	Sick and/or Disabled	Non Disabled MIG	SP only
<u>All persons</u>				
All ages	10,442	2,482	707	7,253
60-64	1,262	201	73	988
65-69	2,479	458	139	1,883
70-74	2,294	409	135	1,750
75-79	1,890	403	137	1,350
80-84	1,338	412	118	808
85-89	753	348	76	329
90+	427	251	30	146
<u>Males</u>				
All ages	3,850	890	180	2,780
60-64
65-69	1,179	266	58	855
70-74	1,053	209	43	800
75-79	799	161	32	606
80-84	496	125	25	346
85-89	231	84	17	130
90+	92	44	5	43
<u>Females</u>				
All ages	6,593	1,592	527	4,473
60-64	1,262	201	73	988
65-69	1,300	192	80	1,028
70-74	1,242	200	92	950
75-79	1,091	242	105	744
80-84	842	287	93	461
85-89	522	264	59	199
90+	335	207	25	103

Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

- Table 2.3 and Charts 2.1 and 2.2 show that the relative importance of statistical groups changes with age. In the younger age groups, for the majority of people the only key benefit they claim is the **State Pension**. In the higher age bands a steadily increasing proportion are classified within the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group (see charts 2.1 and 2.2).
- The proportion within the **non-disabled MIG** statistical group increases up to the 85-89 age band but falls after this age due to a net flow of people into the **sick and disabled** statistical group. Overall, the proportion of women (8%) classified into this statistical group is higher than for men (5%).
- It is estimated that the total number of people over state pension age in Great Britain in receipt of key benefits reported by this bulletin is an over-estimate of around 50 thousand, consistent across time periods. The over-estimate is principally due to people who have recently died still being recorded as a live claim on the SP data, caused by the time lag between death of the claimant and the department being notified and then updating the SP computer system. The problem of dead cases in the pensioner client group datasets is concentrated in the 90+ age group, especially the 100+ age group. The total caseloads for those aged 90+ shown in table 2.3 and charts 2.1 and 2.2 are thought to be over-estimates of up to 10 thousand for men and at least 20 thousand for women.

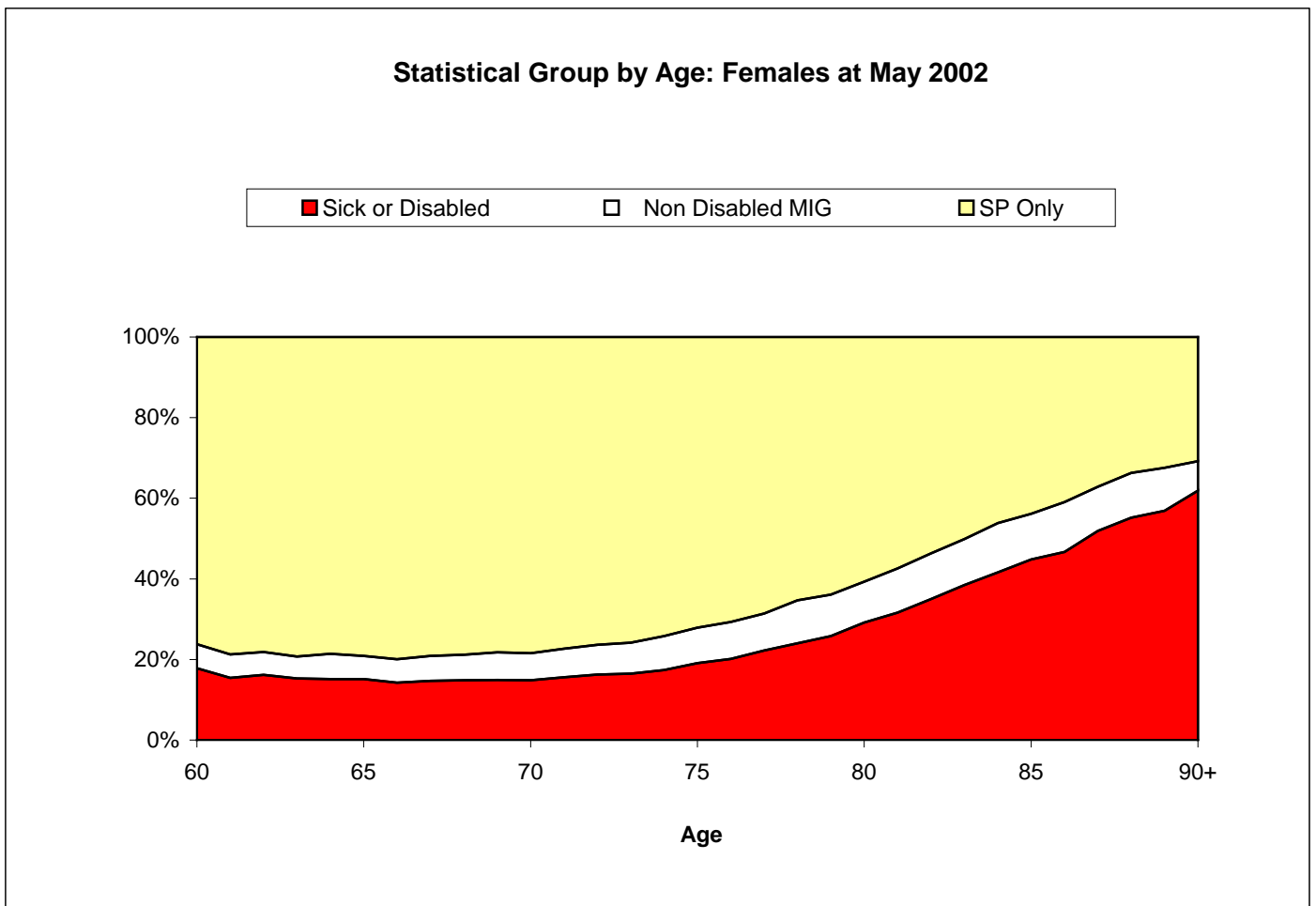
Chart 2.1



At May 2002 for men:

- the proportion in the **sick and/or disabled** group rises steadily after the 75-79 age group, peaking at around 50% for men aged 90+.
- the proportion in the **non-disabled MIG** statistical group reaches a maximum of 7% in the 85-89 age group. The subsequent fall in the relative size within this statistical group for the 90+ age group is due to an increasing proportion moving into the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group.
- taken across the entire age range, 72% of men over state pension age are in the **SP only** category.
- the proportions for the 90+ age group are based on relatively low numbers of claimants and include some dead cases, so caution should be taken in interpreting the figures (see notes below table 2.3 for more information).

Chart 2.2



At May 2002 for women:

- The proportion in the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group rises steadily from about age 75, to over 60% for those aged 90+.
- The proportion of women in the **non-disabled MIG** group is about 6% below age 70, rising to a maximum of 11% for the 80-84 age group, then falling to around 7% for women aged 90+.
- Taken across the entire age range, 68% of women over state pension age are in the **SP only** category.
- However, the caveats expressed for men regarding the potential unreliability of the data for people 90+ apply equally to women.

Statistical group Transitions

The statistical group analyses show the stock of claimants on key benefits at a fixed point in time. By comparing records for the individual claimants who appear in these 'snapshots' over time, the analyses can give an indication of how many people move in and out of the benefit system. They can also look at how people move between benefits and/or statistical groups.

Table 2.4a Cases moving onto key benefits between May 2001 and May 2002: by gender and statistical group

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All	Male	Female
All	572	267	305
Sick and/or Disabled	98	56	42
Non Disabled MIG	34	17	17
SP only	440	195	245

Table 2.4b Cases receiving key benefits at May 2001 but no longer receiving key benefits in May 2002: by gender and statistical group

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All	Male	Female
All	518	224	295
Sick and/or Disabled	271	103	168
Non Disabled MIG	23	8	15
SP only	225	113	112

Table 2.4c Cases changing statistical group between May 2001 and May 2002

Statistical Group in May 2001	<i>Thousands</i>			
	Statistical group in May 2002			
	All	Sick and/or Disabled	Non Disabled MIG	SP only
All	413	269	84	60
Sick and/or Disabled	54	.	14	40
Non Disabled MIG	69	49	.	20
SP only	290	220	70	.

Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

- The numbers on key benefits rose between May 2001 and May 2002 by approximately 54 thousand. This continues the previous trend for a steady increase in the overall number of people within the pensioner client group.
- 77% of claimants moving onto a key benefit(s) between May 2001 and May 2002 received the state **State Pension** as their only benefit.
- The number in the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group rose by 43 thousand between May 2001 and May 2002. However, more people stopped claiming a key benefit in this statistical group (271 thousand) than moved onto benefit directly into the sick and/or disabled statistical group (98 thousand). The rise is due to a net 215 thousand moving from the other statistical groups (most importantly SP only) into the sick and/or disabled group.

Table 2.5a Cases moving onto key benefits between May 1997 and May 2002: by gender and statistical group

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All	Male	Female
All	2,767	1,242	1,525
Sick and/or Disabled	502	277	225
Non Disabled MIG	150	62	88
SP only	2,116	904	1,212

Table 2.5b Cases receiving key benefits at May 1997 but no longer receiving key benefits in May 2002: by gender and statistical group

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All	Male	Female
All	2,544	1,079	1,465
Sick and/or Disabled	1,048	376	672
Non Disabled MIG	192	58	133
SP only	1,304	644	660

Table 2.5c Cases changing statistical group between May 1997 and May 2002

Statistical group in May 1997	<i>Thousands</i>			
	Statistical group in May 2002			
	All	Sick and/or Disabled	Non Disabled MIG	SP only
All	1,274	920	232	121
Sick and/or Disabled	111	.	32	79
Non Disabled MIG	206	164	.	42
SP only	956	756	200	.

- The overall number of claimants on key benefits has risen during the period May 1997 to May 2002 by 223 thousand, with the number moving onto key benefits (2,767 thousand) exceeding those no longer claiming a key benefit (2,544 thousand). The main reason for no longer claiming a key benefit is the death of the claimant.
- Approximately 63% of people on a key benefit in May 1997 were in the same statistical group in May 2002, 25% were no longer on a key benefit and 12% had moved statistical group.

Section 3 – Benefit Combinations

The analyses give an indication of the type of benefit that claimants receive from the benefit system. For the population above state pension age, the benefits received are very different in character from the working age population. To aid analysis the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group has been disaggregated into benefit combinations. These are shown below.

Statistical group	Benefit Combinations	
		Description
Sick and/or Disabled	1	AA or DLA ¹
	2	IB or SDA ¹
	3	One of AA or DLA and one of IB or SDA
	4	MIG only (disability related higher pensioner premium) or MIG with one or more of AA, DLA, IB or SDA
	5	SP only (receiving IVA or in hospital)
	6	SP and one of AA or DLA
	7	SP and MIG
	8	SP and MIG and one of AA or DLA
Non Disabled MIG	9	MIG claimants not in sick and disabled statistical group
SP Only	10	Receiving SP only and not in other statistical groups

1. It should be noted that there is almost no overlap between AA and DLA and between IB and SDA.

Table 3.1 Sick and/or Disabled claimants by benefit combination: May 1997 to May 2002

Thousands and percentages

	May 1997	%	May 1998	%	May 1999	%	May 2000	%	May 2001	%	May 2002	%
	All		All		All		All		All		All	
All	2,219	100	2,295	100	2,346	100	2,382	100	2,439	100	2,482	100
AA or DLA	56	3	53	2	51	2	43	2	42	2	33	1
IB or SDA	105	5	65	3	29	1	4	-	3	-	3	-
AA or DLA and IB or SDA	66	3	50	2	32	1	18	1	18	1	18	1
MIG only/MIG with AA or DLA or IB or SDA	92	4	83	4	77	3	69	3	66	3	70	3
SP only (IVA or in hospital)	186	7	215	9	240	10	249	10	252	10	257	9
SP and AA or DLA	996	46	1,094	48	1,170	50	1,235	52	1,279	52	1,326	54
SP and MIG	151	7	155	7	156	7	162	7	141	6	135	5
SP and MIG and AA or DLA	567	26	580	25	592	25	601	25	637	26	639	26

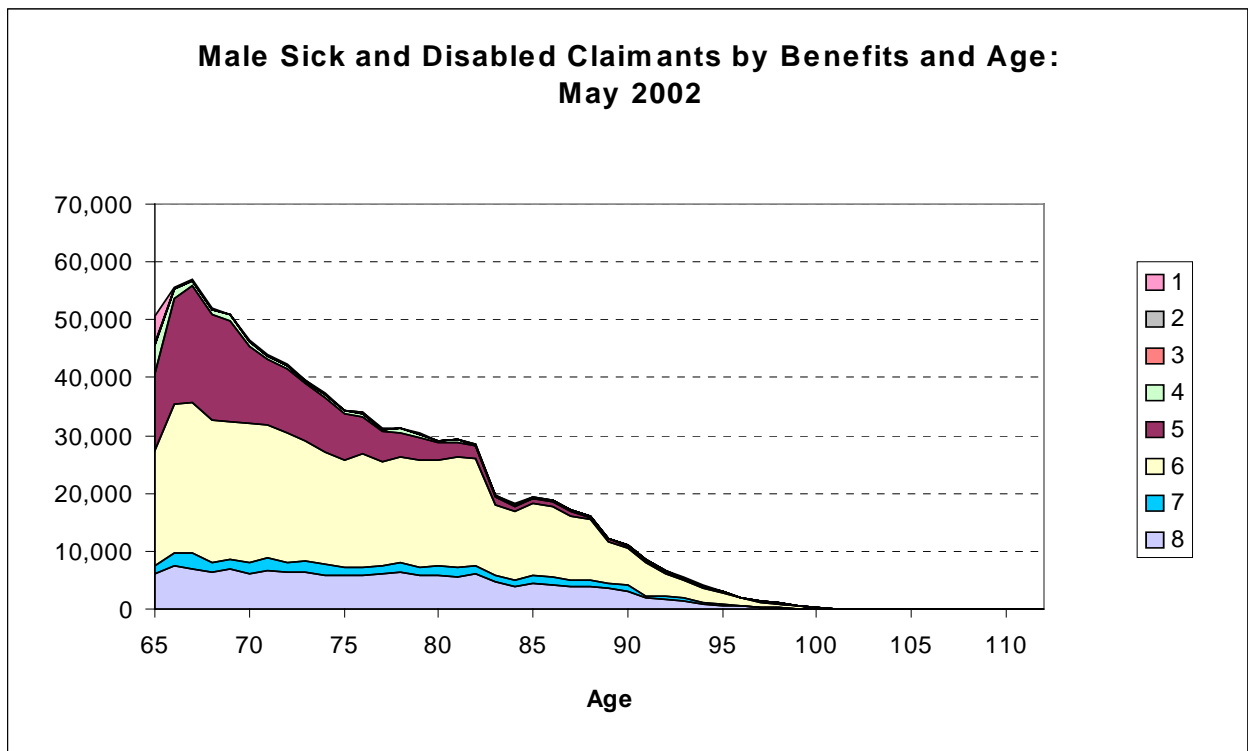
Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

- the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group increased by 263 thousand (+12%) between May 1997 and May 2002.
- SP plus AA or DLA in May 2002 accounted for over half (54%) of the total claimants within the sick and/or disabled statistical group. This compares with only 45% in May 1997.
- The numbers claiming SP, plus MIG and AA or DLA rose more slowly but maintained its relative size (26%) in terms of overall proportion.
- The number claiming SP as their only benefit but classed within the **sick and disabled** statistical group has increased by 71 thousand in May 1997 to 257 thousand in May 2002. People in this category possess residual rights to Invalidity Addition (IVA) or a reduced hospital rate of benefit.

Table 3.2 Sick and/or disabled statistical group cases by benefit combination and gender: May 2002

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>					
	All	%	Male	%	Female	%
All	2,482	100	890	100	1,592	100
AA or DLA	33	1	8	1	25	2
IB or SDA	3	-	1	-	3	-
AA or DLA and IB or SDA	18	1	1	-	18	1
MIG only or MIG with AA or DLA or IB or SDA	70	3	18	2	52	3
SP only (IVA or hospital cases)	257	10	185	21	72	5
SP and one of AA or DLA	1,326	53	483	54	843	53
SP and MIG	135	3	42	5	93	6
SP and MIG and AA or DLA	639	26	151	17	488	31

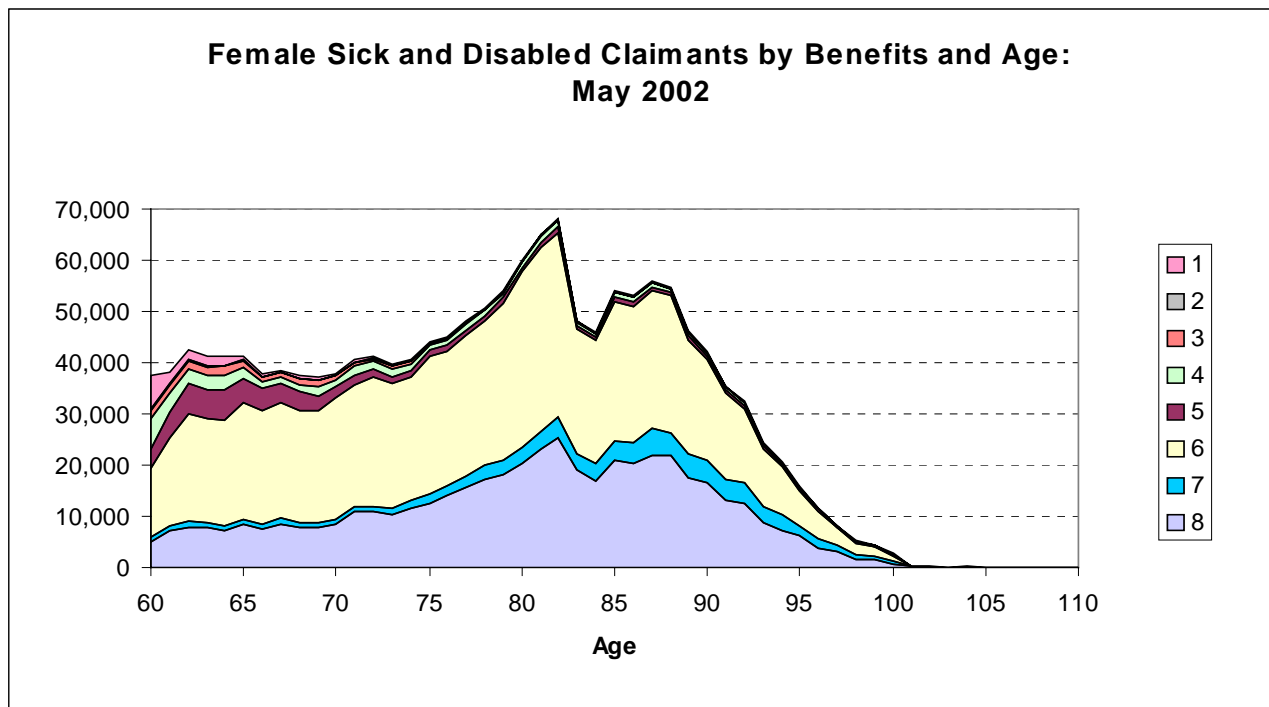
Chart 3.1



Benefit types			
1	AA or DLA	2	IB or SDA
3	One of AA or DLA and one of IB or SDA	4	MIG only / MIG with any of AA, DLA, IB or SDA
5	SP (hospital or IVA)	6	SP and one of AA or DLA
7	SP and MIG	8	SP and MIG and one of AA or DLA

- Overall, the number of men over state pension age in the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group totalled 890 thousand at May 2002.
- Almost three-quarters of men over state pension age and classed within the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group received AA or DLA at May 2002, either on their own or in combination with other benefits.
- 21% of men within the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group receive SP as their only DWP benefit. They are classified to this statistical group because they are receiving a reduced rate of award due to being in hospital or, as in the majority of cases, they have residual rights to Invalidity Allowance (IVA). A much lower proportion of women claimants (5%) are in this category.
- The figures for the 90+ age group are based on relatively low numbers of claimants and include some dead cases, so caution should be taken in interpreting any trends (see notes below table 2.3 for more information).

Chart 3.2



Benefit types	
1	AA or DLA
2	IB or SDA
3	One of AA or DLA and one of IB or SDA
4	MIG only / MIG with any of AA, DLA, IB or SDA
5	SP (hospital or IVA)
6	SP and one of AA or DLA
7	SP and MIG
8	SP and MIG and one of AA or DLA

- Overall, the number of women over state pension age in the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group totalled 1,592 thousand at May 2002.
- Over 85% of women over state pension age and classed within **the sick and disabled** statistical group received AA or DLA, either on their own or in combination with other benefits, most notably SP only or SP and MIG.
- The dip in women aged 83 and 84 is due to the First World War and period immediately after when fewer babies were born (see page 7 for more details). A smaller effect is apparent for men in the same age group.
- The figures for the 90+ age group are based on relatively low numbers of claimants and include some dead cases, so caution should be taken in interpreting any trends (see notes below table 2.3 for more information).

Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

**Table 3.3 Claimants by all benefit combinations and gender:
May 2002**

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All	Male	Female
All	10,442	3,850	6,593
DLA only	23	6	18
AA only	9	2	7
DLA,AA	-	-	-
SDA only	3	-	3
SDA,DLA	17	-	17
SDA,AA	1	-	1
SDA,DLA,AA	0	-	-
IB only	0	-	-
IB,DLA	0	-	-
MIG only	71	22	49
MIG,DLA	19	6	13
MIG,AA	17	4	13
MIG,DLA,AA	-	-	-
MIG,SDA	5	2	4
MIG,SDA,DLA	15	3	12
MIG,SDA,AA	2	1	1
MIG,SDA,AA,DLA	-	-	-
MIG,IB	1	-	-
MIG,IB,DLA	1	-	-
MIG,IB,AA	-	-	-
SP Only	7,510	2,965	4,545
SP,DLA	462	194	268
SP,AA	854	286	568
SP,AA,DLA	11	4	7
SP,MIG	782	203	579
SP,MIG,DLA	164	56	108
SP,MIG,AA	469	93	375
SP,MIG,AA,DLA	7	2	5

All benefit combinations present in May 2002 are presented in Table 3.3. The six most important in order of magnitude are:- SP Only (72%); SP and AA (8%); SP and MIG (7%); SP,MIG and AA (4%); SP and DLA (4%); SP,MIG and DLA (2%).

Section 4 – Claimants with Dependants

The statistical group analyses for the population over state pension age usually only produce data in respect of the claimant. Information on the dependants and especially partners of the claimant is limited due to the way information is held on the source benefit computer systems. The information below is based on indicators that show whether the benefits in payment to a claimant include an amount in respect of a dependant. It does not include any information on partners and hence it does not show the total number of benefit units containing a single person or a couple.

Table 4.1 Claimants of key benefits by gender and dependant type: May 2002

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All	Male	Female
All	10,442	3,850	6,593
No dependant	10,062	3,600	6,461
Adult dependant	234	204	30
Child dependant	9	5	4
Adult & Child dependants	14	14	-
Not known ¹	124	27	98

1. Cases where AA or DLA only is being claimed.
Information on dependants is not available from these sources.

- Table 4.1 shows relatively few people of over state pension age (2.5%) with a child and/or adult dependant at May 2002.
- For men the proportion with a recorded dependant(s) is 5.7%, mostly in respect of an adult dependant.
- The proportion of women claiming for a dependant(s) is even lower (0.5%).
- Only a tenth of one percent of the claimants over state pension age had a claim that included a child dependant (23 thousand).

Section 5 – Regional Analysis

Table 5.1 Claimants of key benefits by gender and Government Office Region: May 2002

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>					
	All		Men		Women	
	(000s)	% of pop [†]	(000s)	% of pop [†]	(000s)	% of pop [†]
Great Britain	10,442	99	3,850	100	6,593	98
England	8,939	99	3,310	100	5,628	98
North East	484	100	178	100	306	99
North West	1,251	100	456	100	795	99
Yorkshire & Humberside	918	99	338	100	580	98
East Midlands	768	99	290	100	478	98
West Midlands	970	99	360	100	609	98
East of England	1,019	99	385	100	633	99
London	1,011	97	365	98	646	97
South East	1,476	98	549	100	927	97
South West	1,043	99	389	100	654	98
Wales	576	99	215	100	362	97
Scotland	927	98	325	99	603	98

1. *Population of residents above state pension age. Population data sources Office for national Statistics (ONS) and General Register Office, Scotland (GROS). May 2002 percentages derived from mid 2001 population estimates based on 2001 Census. Percentages shown as 100 may actually have been calculated as slightly higher than 100 i.e. the benefit caseload is apparently at least as high, if not higher, than the corresponding population figure. This can occur because the latest population estimates available are around a year behind the benefit data and/or because of slight inaccuracies associated with the data sources themselves.*

- The proportion of the population over state pension age **claiming a key DWP benefit** in May 2002 ranges from 97% in London to 100% in the North East and North West.
- The government office region with the highest proportion claiming a key **sickness and/or disability benefit** is Wales (35%), followed by the North East and the North West (30%) and Scotland (28%). The South East (15%) has the lowest proportion followed by East of England (18%) and the South West (19%).
- The proportion of the population over state pension age in the **non-disabled MIG group** ranges from 10% in London down to 5% in Wales.
- South East has the highest proportion of the pensioner population receiving **SP only** (77%), followed by East of England (75%). The lowest proportions receiving **SP only** are in Wales (58%), the North East (61%) and North West and Scotland (63%).

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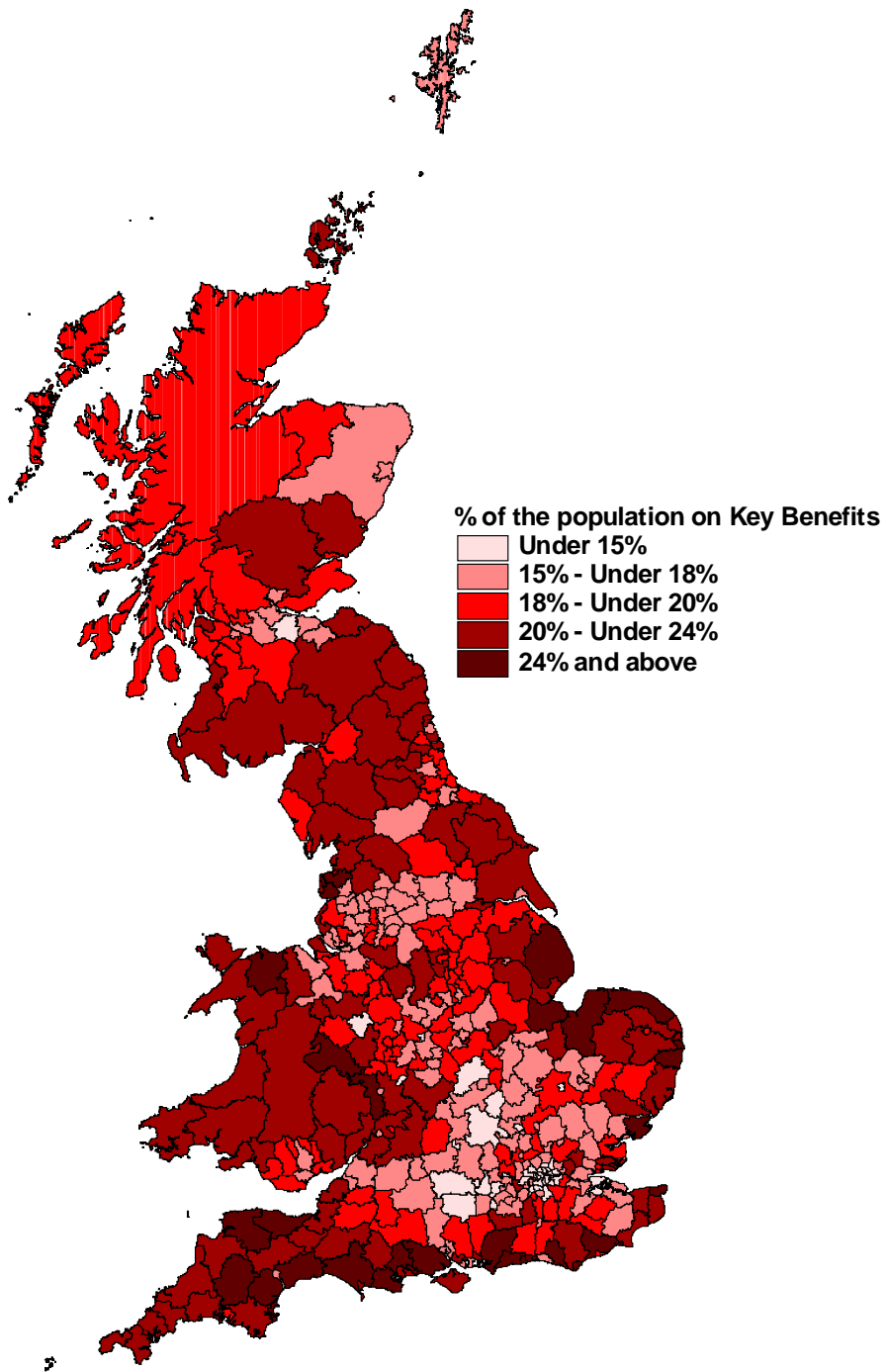
Table 5.2 Claimants of key benefits by statistical group and Government Office Region: May 2002

Thousands and percentages

		Client Group			
		All	Sick and Disabled	Non Disabled MIG	SP only
Great Britain	(000s)	10,442	2,482	707	7,253
	% of pop ¹	99	23	7	69
England	(000s)	8,939	2,009	614	6,316
	% of pop ¹	99	22	7	70
North East	(000s)	484	150	37	296
	% of pop ¹	100	30	8	61
North West	(000s)	1,251	377	83	791
	% of pop ¹	100	30	7	63
Yorkshire & Humberside	(000s)	918	233	69	616
	% of pop ¹	99	25	7	66
East Midlands	(000s)	768	179	49	540
	% of pop ¹	99	23	6	70
West Midlands	(000s)	970	247	73	650
	% of pop ¹	99	25	7	66
East of England	(000s)	1,019	189	59	770
	% of pop ¹	99	18	6	75
London	(000s)	1,011	204	101	706
	% of pop ¹	97	20	10	68
South East	(000s)	1,476	227	84	1,166
	% of pop ¹	98	15	6	77
South West	(000s)	1,043	203	60	780
	% of pop ¹	99	19	6	74
Wales	(000s)	576	206	31	340
	% of pop ¹	99	35	5	58
Scotland	(000s)	927	267	63	598
	% of pop ¹	98	28	7	63

1. *Population of residents above state pension age. Population data sources Office for national Statistics (ONS) and General Register Office, Scotland (GROS). May 2002 percentages derived from mid 2001 population estimates based on 2001 Census. Percentages shown as 100 may actually have been calculated as slightly higher than 100 i.e. the benefit caseload is apparently at least as high, if not higher, than the corresponding population figure. This can occur because the latest population estimates available are around a year behind the benefit data and/or because of slight inaccuracies associated with the data sources themselves.*

Figure 1: Population over State Pension Age on Key DWP Benefits as a percentage of Total Population by Local Authority: May 2002



Section 6 - Methodology

A full description of the methodology used to produce the initial client group analyses for the working age is given in the report "Client group Analysis: the Population of Working Age on Key Benefits". This is available from the contact point listed in the Notes to Editors.

These analyses are based on data collected through the administration of the individual benefits. They are designed to give a good indication of the size of the population on these benefits and how this changes over time. However, they are affected by changes to the conditions of entitlement and to the existence of the benefits themselves, as well as by changes to the format of the administrative data received by the ASD Information Centre.

This includes events such as the change of regulations for Incapacity Benefit in 1995 or the introduction of the new SP scan from September 1999.

Summary of methodology

These analyses have been constructed by matching samples for the individual benefits that they cover. Claimants for these individual samples are selected on the basis of national insurance numbers (NINOs) using a sampling scheme that ensures that the same set of claimants will be selected for each individual benefit and time period that they have a live claim.

To produce the client group analyses, a common 'snapshot' date is chosen and the NINOs for each claimant with a live claim on this date are selected. The NINOs are then matched to produce an overall data set for those who have at least one live claim on the snapshot date. The individual data items used for the various analyses (eg age, sex, dependant details) are then taken from the source datasets and additional variables are then derived (e.g. statistical group, dependant type).

This methodology gives a "best estimate" of the overall number of claimants of these benefits. However, there are some limitations, for example, the sample of SP claimants is taken two months before the client group 'snapshot' date. The best estimates of claimants of each individual benefit are still given by the individual samples from which the data are drawn. Details of individual benefits are published by DWP, ASD Information Centre via regular bulletins.

Statistical groups

Claimants have been allocated to statistical groups to give an indication of the broad groups and reasons why they are receiving a benefit(s) (see Definitions and Conventions, page 4). This is only one of the possible ways in which claimants could be classified and alternative classifications are possible.

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Transitions Analyses

The transitions analyses (section 2) are produced by comparing the 'snapshot' datasets each year. By so doing we can get an indication of how many people move on, move off and between the key benefits. These analyses do not cover all claimants who come on and go off these benefits over the period covered by the analyses. For example, the analyses will not cover claims of short duration that start and end between the 'snapshot' dates.

Additionally, as they are based on matching NINOs of claimants on key benefits, they do not cover all possible movements into and out of the benefits system.

Section 7 – Sampling Error

The data contained in this publication are based on 5% of the total 'live', GB cases held on the Benefit Computer Systems. Therefore, if the number of cases in a sample with characteristic A is 500, we can say that the number of cases with characteristic A on the computer system is equal to 500 multiplied by 20, i.e. 10,000 cases. The sample taken is just one of many different samples which could be taken, therefore the total calculated number of cases with characteristic A is only an estimate of the actual number of cases. If another sample had been taken then the estimate for the same characteristic may have been slightly different. The table on the next page shows the amount of variation that can be expected from the estimated number of cases with a certain characteristic. For example, if from a 5% sample there are 500 cases with characteristic A then the estimated number of cases in GB with the same characteristic is 10,000, and we could reasonably expect the actual figure to lie between 9,150 and 10,850.

Formula

Two formulae are used to calculate the standard error and the associated confidence intervals. For samples with less than 30 cases the binomial distribution is used to calculate the standard error. For samples with greater than 30 cases the normal approximation to the binomial is used. The normal approximation formula used to calculate the standard error is:

$\sqrt{(1-F)S} \frac{1}{F}$, where F is the sampling fraction (e.g. 0.05 for a 5% sample) and S is the number of sample cases with the characteristic.

In an example where there were 50 sample cases with characteristic A taken from a sample representing 5% of the population, the standard error is:

$$\sqrt{(1 - 0.05)50} \cdot (1/0.05) = 137.8... \approx 138$$

There is a 95% probability that the actual population value falls within 1.96 standard errors of the grossed up sample value. For the above example this would be:

$$(50/0.05) \pm 1.96 * 138 = (730, 1270)$$

This range is known as the 95% confidence interval.

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Table A1: Confidence Intervals for a 5% sample

Estimated value	95% confidence interval	Confidence interval as a % of the estimate
0	0 to 60	.
100	34 to 230	.
300	171 to 490	.
500	328 to 732	.
1,000	± 270	± 27.0%
2,500	± 427	± 17.1%
5,000	± 604	± 12.1%
10,000	± 850	± 8.5%
25,000	± 1350	± 5.4%
50,000	± 1910	± 3.8%
100,000	±2702	± 2.7%
1,000,000	±9000	± 0.9%
10,000,000	±27016	± 0.3%

Section 8 – Population Estimates

The underlying data for this bulletin shows that the numbers of people in the 80 and over age groups on the CGA data set differ from the population estimates published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). There are a number of reasons why we might expect these two data sources to differ as, for reasons that are set out in this section, the comparison of these two data sets is not of like with like. The latest CGA data set relates to May 2002 whereas the ONS data are mid-year estimates for 2001, the latest published. On one hand we might expect population estimates to exceed the numbers claiming benefits because not all residents of GB above state pension age are eligible to claim benefits.

The following reasons for differences between the two datasets have been identified:

- The latest CGA data relates to May 2002 but the latest population estimates are based on mid-2001.
- The CGA data are based on a 5% sample, the population estimates data are based on the 2001 Census rolled forward with adjustments made each year for births, deaths and migration and incorporating an allowance for under-enumeration in the Census.
- The CGA data relate to end-May and end-November whereas population estimates relate to end-June. This will affect both the total numbers and the age distribution of each data set.
- The ONS population estimate figure may be lower than the CGA data in any age group because the CGA data may include a small number of those now living abroad but having their State Pension paid directly into a bank account in Britain.
- People resident in Britain can be omitted from the CGA data if they are married and will be claiming a pension via their spouse's contribution record. This mostly affects women who are not eligible for a pension until their husband commences claiming their state pension, usually upon reaching the male pension age of 65. The majority of women affected are in the 60-64 age group.
- ONS population estimates may also be higher than the CGA data because they would include non-British nationals resident in Britain not eligible to claim benefits or a state pension.
- The accuracy of the age distribution of the population estimates for the very elderly would be affected by the accuracy of age reporting on death certificates. There are reasons why the age may be wrong on a death certificate, e.g. if a neighbour records the death of an old person who lived alone; they may not know the precise age.
- Incorrect dates of birth registered on the DWP operational computer systems. The dates of birth were very consistent between the different benefits. However, a large-scale exercise to give National Insurance numbers to pensioners whom did not already have them was carried out in the mid to late 1980s. It is possible

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that incorrect dates of birth may have been entered onto the administrative computer systems at this point.

- Inclusion of people no longer on benefit. Delays in recording this information on the different benefit computer systems could occur, leading to the CGA estimates being too high.
- Fraud. For example, continuing to claim for someone who has died.
- **It is estimated that the total number of people over state pension age in Great Britain in receipt of key benefits reported by this bulletin is an over-estimate of around 50 thousand, consistent across time periods.** The over-estimate is principally due to people who have recently died still being recorded as a live claim on the SP data, caused by the time lag between death of the claimant and the department being notified and then updating the SP computer system. The problem of dead cases in the pensioner client group datasets is concentrated in the 90+ age group, especially the 100+ age group.

It is not possible to quantify all of these effects but they do indicate the inherent difficulties of comparing data that are compiled on different bases and for different purposes.

Appendix 1 – Winter Fuel Payments

For Winter 2001/2002, Winter Fuel Payments (WFP) were paid to people over the age of 60 and normally resident in Great Britain or Northern Ireland during “Q-Week” (17th-23rd September 2001). People are not eligible for WFP if they:

- have been in hospital for more than 52 weeks;
- live with their partner who qualifies for a payment because they receive MIG/JSA(IB);
- do not normally live in Great Britain or Northern Ireland;
- are held in custody and sentenced;
- are under immigration control and not eligible for help from the DWP;
- receive MIG/JSA(IB) and have been living in a nursing home, residential care or local authority residential accommodation for a period of at least 13 weeks prior to “Q-Week”.

For Winter 2001/2002, where there was only one eligible person living in the household, they received £200. Where there was more than one eligible person they received £100 each. WFP recipients on any benefit were paid through that benefit. If they received more than one benefit a hierarchy was used to ensure no duplicate payments were made (for hierarchy see notes to Table 2).

For Winter 2000/01, people aged 60+ not in receipt of benefit – principally men aged 60-64 - were eligible for WFP for the first time (subject to the exclusion criteria set out above). These people were approached by a private sector provider (PSP) with appropriate claim details. Details of 2000/01 WFP recipients via the PSP route were then held on the Winter Fuel Payments System (WFPS).

For Winter 2001/02, these people were paid via the appropriate benefit system if they had subsequently moved onto benefit and via WFPS otherwise. In addition, people not on benefit and claiming WFP for the first time – principally men turning 60 since last year - did so via the private sector provider (PSP).

Table 1 Winter Fuel Payments by Government Office Region and gender: Winter 2001/2002

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All	Male	Female
Great Britain	11,202	4,892	6,310
England	9,586	4,197	5,389
North East	513	227	287
North West	1,336	583	754
Yorkshire and the Humber	982	432	551
East Midlands	832	373	459
West Midlands	1,044	464	580
East of England	1,091	482	609
London	1,080	465	616
South East	1,595	687	908
South West	1,112	486	627
Wales	620	273	346
Scotland	996	421	575

Table 2 Winter Fuel Payments by feeder benefit/payment system¹ and gender: Winter 2001/2002

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All	Male	Female
All	11,202	4,892	6,310
AA	7	2	5
DLA	16	9	7
IB	244	243	2
MIG	1,506	515	991
RP	8,604	3,395	5,208
SDA	19	3	16
PSP	140	127	12
WFPS	600	560	40
Other benefits- those marked * below	66	37	29

¹ Benefit hierarchy for payments is:

- Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG)
- Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)*
- Retirement Pension (RP)
- Widow's Benefit (WB)*
- Incapacity Benefit (IB)
- Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA)
- War pensions and allowances*
- Attendance Allowance (AA)
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Invalid Care Allowance (ICA)*
- Industrial injuries and disease benefits (Including Reduced Earnings Allowance and Retirement Allowance)*
- Winter Fuel Payments System (WFPS)
- Private Sector Provider (PSP)