

9 May 2002

Coverage: Great Britain
Theme: Social and Welfare

CLIENT GROUP ANALYSIS OF THE POPULATION OVER STATE PENSION AGE: NOVEMBER 2001

The Client Group Analysis of the Population Over State Pension Age for November 2001 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 November 2001, 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 289 thousand between May 1996 and November 2001. In the year to November 2001 the number of claimants increased by 75 thousand.
- In November 2001, 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

Issued by:
Information Centre
Analytical Services Directorate
Department for Work and Pensions

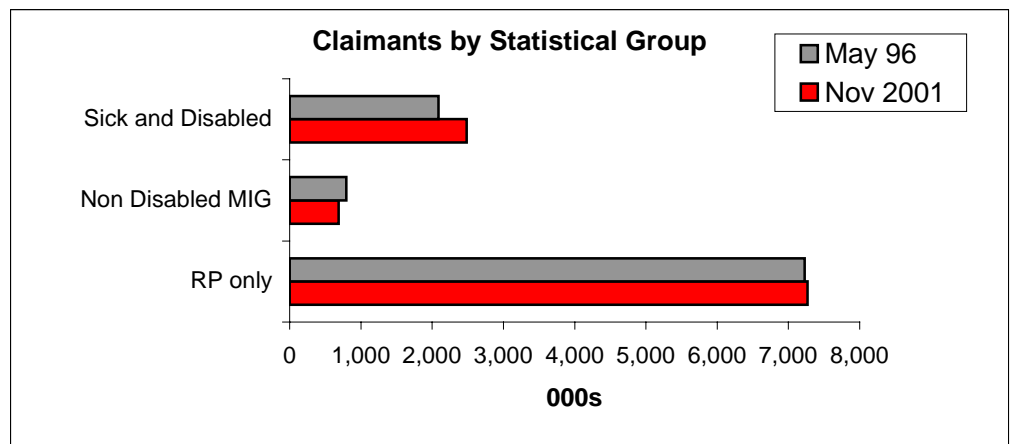
Telephone
Press Office: 020 7238 0866
Public Enquiries : 020 7712 2171

Website :
www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/pensioners.html

Statistician:
Neil Sorensen
Information Centre
Analytical Services Directorate
Department for Work and Pensions
Room BP 5201
Benton Park View
Benton Park Road
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
NE98 1YX

Telephone : 0191 225 3760
Facsimile : 0191 225 3193
email :
neil.sorensen@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Next Publication:
7th November 2002



- The **sick and/or disabled** statistical group has increased by 370 thousand during the period May 1996 to November 2001. In the year to November 2001 the number within this statistical group increased by 30 thousand.
- During the period May 1996 to November 2001, the **non-disabled MIG** statistical group fell by 105 thousand. In the year to November 2001 the number within this statistical group increased by 75 thousand.
- The **RP only** statistical group has increased by 25 thousand in the period May 1996 to November 2001. In the year to November 2001 the number within this statistical group decreased by 29 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. Retirement Pension (RP) 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 which cases were dead or not. Therefore, the November 2001 bulletin onwards no longer excludes any such cases from the analysis i.e. 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 1996 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 RP data, caused by the time lag between death of the claimant and the department being notified and then updating the RP 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.

An additional small number of cases (about 30 thousand) have been affected by a MIG equalisation of pensioner premiums exercise in April 2001. This had the effect of transferring cases from the sick and/or disabled to non-disabled MIG statistical groups, counter to the usual direction. It is thought that this is a "one-off glitch" and, although the 30 thousand cases affected are unlikely to be "corrected" it should not occur again. The implications for analysis are that:

- Year-on-year transitions spanning April 2001, from the sick and/or disabled group to non-disabled MIG, will be artificially inflated by approximately 30 thousand;
- The non-disabled MIG caseload will include approximately 30 thousand claimants who should probably be in the sick and disabled group, although over time this effect will gradually wither.

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. It is intended that all references to "Retirement Pension" (RP) will be changed to "State Pension" (SP) at some point in the future, subject to this approach being undertaken consistently across 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/online.html>

Client Group Analysis
Population Over State Pension Age: November 2001
ISSN: 1469 8609

Contact:
Sue Richardson, Information Centre (ASD)
Tel. No. : 0191-225-7874
Facsimile : 0191-225-3193
e-mail : Sue.Richardson@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

**DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS
Analytical Services Directorate**

**Client Group Analysis on the Population
Over State Pension Age Claiming Key Benefits:
November 2001**

Contents	Page
Definitions and conventions	4
Tables and charts	
1. Age and Gender	6
2. Statistical Groups	9
3. Benefit Combinations	17
4. Claimants with Dependants	22
5. Regional Analysis	23
6. Methodology	26
7. Sampling Error	28
8. Population Estimates	30
Appendix 1 Winter Fuel Payments	32

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+)

Retirement Pension (RP)

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 RP and one of the following

- in hospital;
- receiving Invalidity Allowance (IVA)

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

RP only RP claimants not in other statistical groups above

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

A small number of cases (about 30 thousand) have been affected by a MIG equalisation of pensioner premiums exercise in April 2001. This had the effect of transferring cases from the sick and/or disabled to non-Disabled MIG statistical groups, counter to the usual direction. It is thought that this is a “one-off glitch” and, although the 30 thousand cases affected are unlikely to be “corrected” it should not occur again. The implications for analysis are that:

- Year-on-year transitions spanning April 2001, from the sick and/or disabled group to non-disabled MIG, will be artificially inflated by approximately 30 thousand;
- The non-disabled MIG caseload will include approximately 30 thousand claimants who should probably be in the sick and disabled group, although over time this effect will gradually wither.

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 RP only and in hospital or receiving Invalidation Allowance (IVA)
- 6 RP and receiving AA or DLA
- 7 RP and MIG
- 8 RP and MIG and receiving AA or DLA

Non Disabled MIG

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

RP Only

- 10 RP 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 November 2001 figures are mid-year figures for 2000, 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	Invalidation Allowance
.	Not applicable	IVB	Invalidation Benefit
-	Nil or negligible	MIG	Minimum Income Guarantee
£pw	Pounds per week	NI	National Insurance
AA	Attendance Allowance	No.	Number
CGA	Client Group Analysis	RP	Retirement 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 1996 – November 2001**

	<i>Thousands</i>					
	May 1996	May 1997	May 1998	Nov 1999	Nov 2000	Nov 2001
All	10,153	10,219	10,276	10,338	10,367	10,442
% of pop¹	98	98	98	99	99	99
Men	3,649	3,686	3,715	3,761	3,785	3,842
% of pop ¹	100	100	100	100	100	100
Women	6,504	6,533	6,561	6,577	6,582	6,600
% of pop ¹	96	97	98	98	98	98

1. Population of GB residents above pension age. Population data sources ONS and Scottish Registrar. Percentages for each year based on population estimates for previous year, the latest published at the time. 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 at least a year behind the benefit data and/or because of slight inaccuracies associated with the data sources themselves.

- In November 2001, 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: November 2001

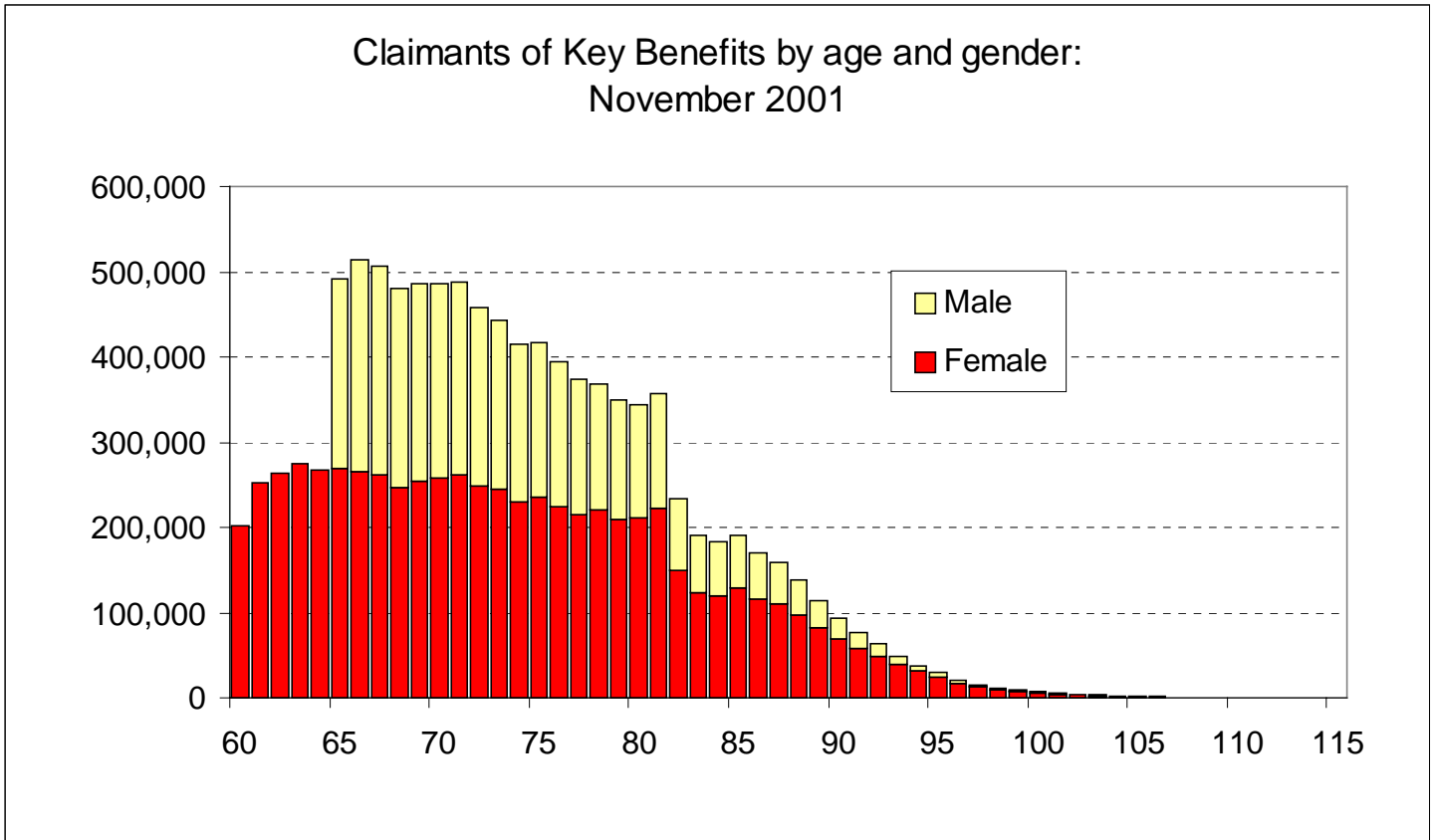
	<i>Thousands</i>					
	All		Male		Female	
		<i>% of pop¹</i>		<i>% of pop¹</i>		<i>% of pop¹</i>
All ages	10,442	99	3,842	100	6,600	98
60-64	1,257				1,257	
65-69	2,479		1,181		1,298	
70-74	2,291		1,049		1,242	
75-79	1,905		801		1,104	
80-84	1,309		483		826	
85-89	770		235		535	
90+	431		93		338	

1. Population of GB residents above pension age. Population data sources ONS and Scottish Registrar. November 2001 percentages based on mid 2000 population estimates. 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 at least a year behind the benefit data and/or because of slight inaccuracies associated with the data sources themselves.

Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

- 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 at least a year behind the benefits caseload data.
- The mismatch between the benefits caseload data and the population estimates is particularly marked for people in their early 80s in November 2001, 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 81 years old (see chart 1.1 below). In November 2001, the benefit caseload for those aged 81 (high due to the baby boom) is divided by the 2000 population estimate for those aged 81 (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 RP data, caused by the time lag between death of the claimant and the department being notified and then updating the RP 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 up to 20 thousand for women.
- See section on Population Estimates (page 29) 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 82 to 85 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 81 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 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 1996 – November 2001**

Thousands and percentages¹

	May 1996 All	% of pop ¹	May 1997 All	% of pop ¹	May 1998 All	% of pop ¹	Nov 1999 All	% of pop ¹	Nov 2000 All	% of pop ¹	Nov 2001 All	% of pop ¹
All	10,153	98	10,219	98	10,276	98	10,338	99	10,367	99	10,442	99
Sick and/or Disabled	2,114	20	2,219	21	2,295	22	2,365	23	2,454	23	2,484	24
Non Disabled MIG	794	8	723	7	654	6	600	6	614	6	689	7
RP only	7,246	70	7,276	70	7,327	70	7,373	70	7,299	70	7,270	69

1. *Population of GB residents above pension age. Population data sources ONS and Scottish Registrar Percentages for each year based on population estimates for previous year, the latest published at the time. 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 at least a year behind the benefit data and/or because of slight inaccuracies associated with the data sources themselves.*

- Overall, the number of people over state pension age receiving one of the key DWP benefits rose by 289 thousand between May 1996 and November 2001.
- The **sick and/or disabled** group has increased by 370 thousand during the period May 1996 to November 2001. In the year to November 2001 the number within this statistical group increased by 30 thousand.
- The **RP only** statistical group has increased by 24 thousand in the period May 1996 to November 2001. In the year to November 2001 the number within this statistical group decreased by 29 thousand.
- During the period May 1996 to November 2001, the **non-disabled MIG** statistical group fell by 105 thousand. In the year to November 2001 the number within this statistical group increased by 75 thousand.

Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

Table 2.2 Claimants by statistical group and gender: November 2001

Thousands and percentages¹

	All		Male		Female	
		% of pop ¹		% of pop ¹		% of pop ¹
All	10,442	99	3,842	100	6,600	98
Sick and/or Disabled	2,484	24	887	23	1,597	24
Non Disabled MIG	689	7	173	5	516	8
RP only	7,270	69	2,782	73	4,487	67

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 at least 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: November

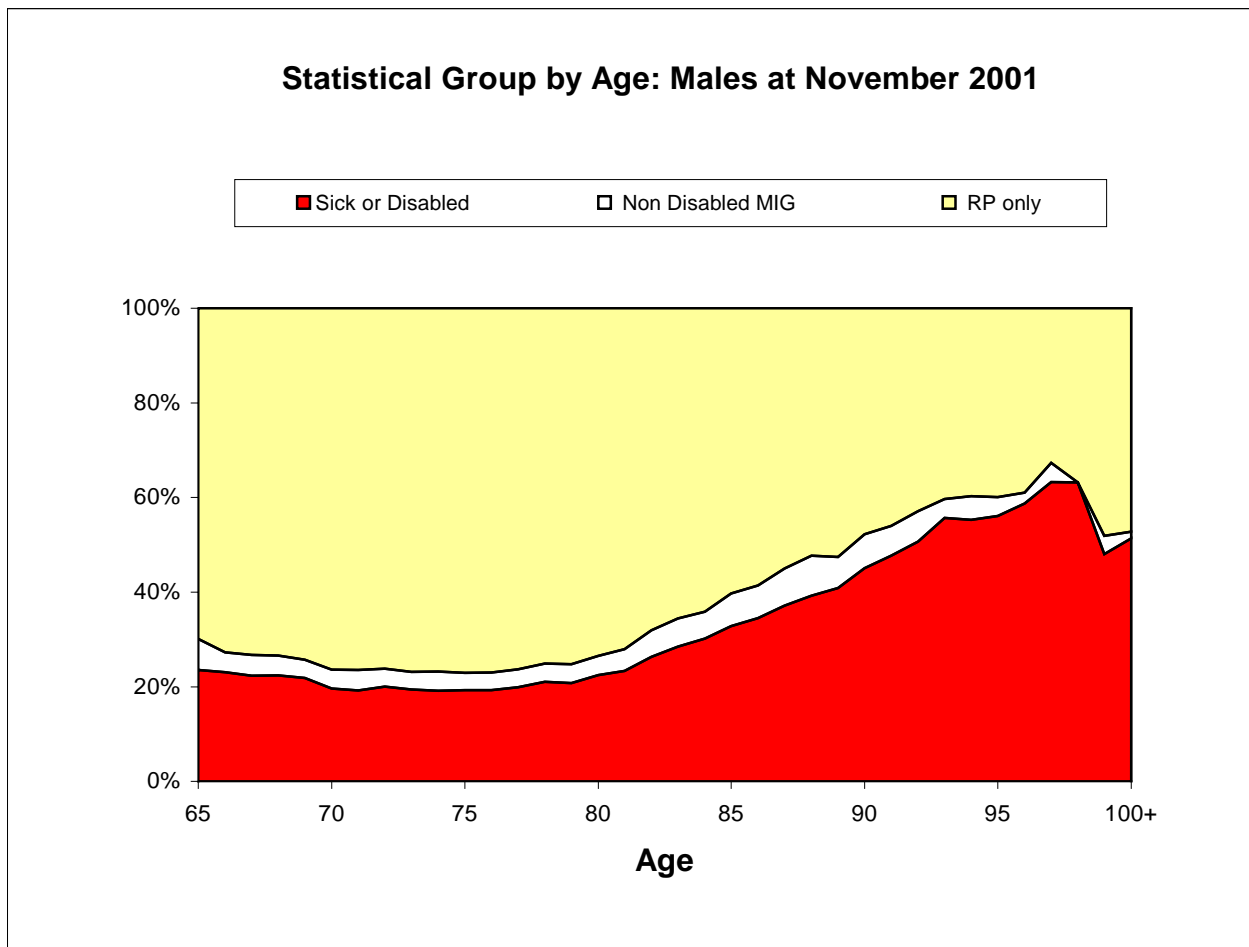
Thousands

	All	Sick and/or Disabled	Non Disabled	
			MIG	RP only
All persons				
All ages	10,442	2,484	689	7,270
60-64	1,257	200	72	985
65-69	2,479	455	134	1,890
70-74	2,291	403	133	1,755
75-79	1,905	403	134	1,368
80-84	1,309	404	115	790
85-89	770	358	76	336
90+	431	260	26	145
Males				
All ages	3,842	887	173	2,782
60-64
65-69	1,181	267	55	859
70-74	1,049	205	42	802
75-79	801	160	30	610
80-84	483	122	24	337
85-89	235	85	17	132
90+	93	47	5	41
Females				
All ages	6,600	1,597	516	4,487
60-64	1,257	200	72	985
65-69	1,298	188	79	1,031
70-74	1,242	199	91	952
75-79	1,104	243	104	758
80-84	826	282	91	453
85-89	535	273	59	204
90+	338	213	21	104

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 retirement 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 RP data, caused by the time lag between death of the claimant and the department being notified and then updating the RP 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 up to 20 thousand for women.

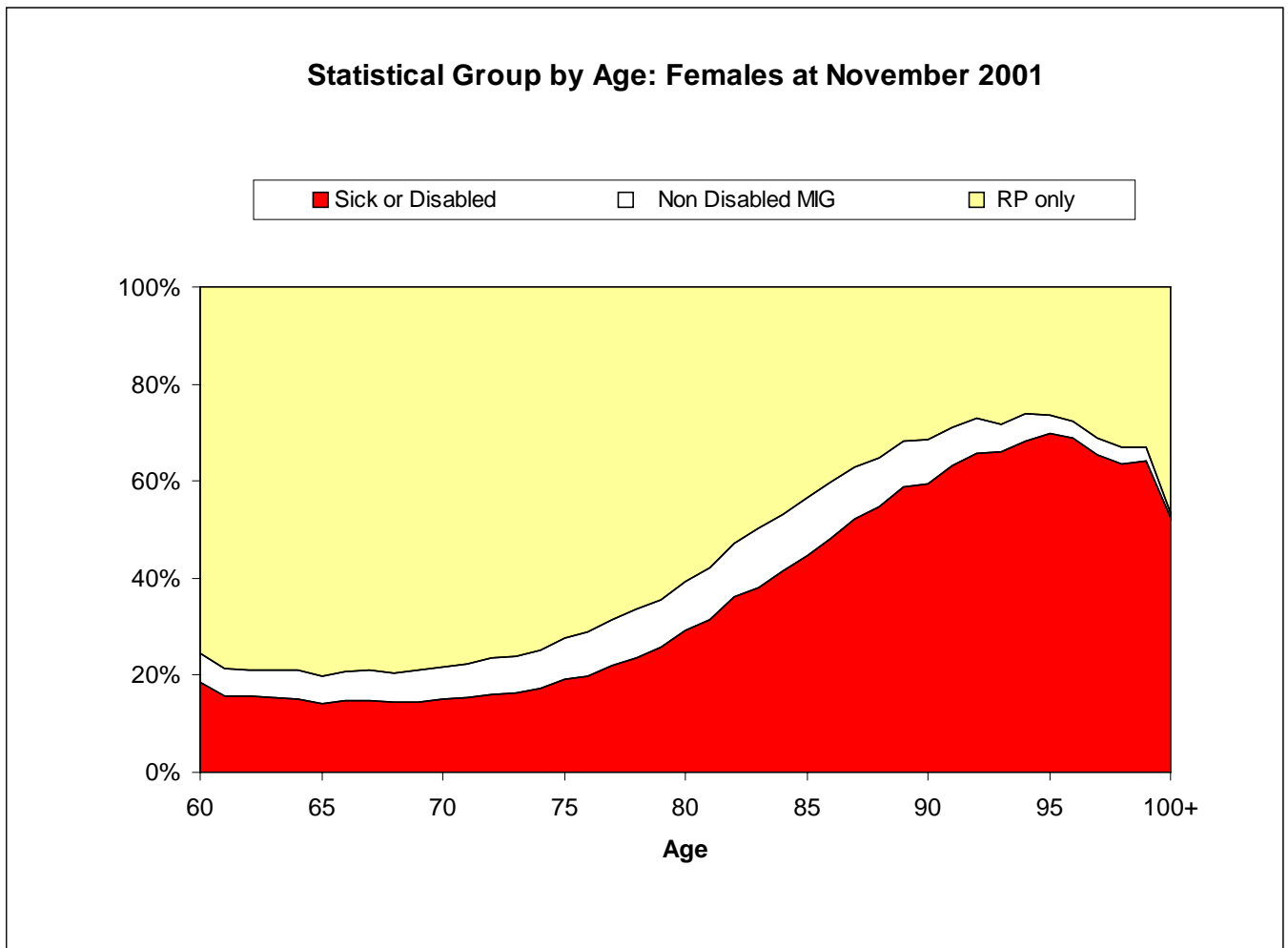
Chart 2.1



At November 2001 for men:

- the proportion in the **sick and/or disabled** group rises steadily after the 75+ age group, peaking at around 60% for men aged 97 and 98.
- the proportion in the **non-disabled MIG** statistical group reaches a maximum of 8% in the 85-90 age group. The subsequent fall in the relative size within this statistical group from age 90 onwards is due to an increasing proportion moving into the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group.
- taken across the entire age range, for 72% of men over the state pension age the only benefit they claim is retirement pension (**RP only**).
- the fluctuations for the 95+ age group are based on relatively low numbers of claimants and include a relatively high proportion of dead cases, so caution should be taken in interpreting any trends (see notes below table 2.3 and Methodology sections).

Chart 2.2



At November 2001 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 12% at age 83, then falling to around 3% for women aged 95+.
- Taken across the entire age range, for 68% of women over the state pension age, the only DWP benefit they claim is retirement pension (**RP only**).
- However, the caveats expressed for men regarding the potential unreliability of small sample sizes aged 95+ 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 November 2000 and November 2001: by gender and statistical group

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All	Male	Female
All	559	267	292
Sick and/or Disabled	99	57	42
Non Disabled MIG	33	16	17
RP only	427	194	234

Table 2.4b Cases receiving key benefits at November 2000 - but no longer receiving key benefits in November 2001: by gender and statistical group

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All	Male	Female
All	484	210	274
Sick and/or Disabled	252	96	156
Non Disabled MIG	21	7	14
RP only	211	107	104

Table 2.4c Cases changing statistical group between November 2000 and November 2001

Statistical Group in November 2000	<i>Thousands</i>			
	Statistical group in November 2001			
	All	Sick and/or Disabled	Non Disabled MIG	RP only
All	454	260	129	64
Sick and/or Disabled	78	.	35	43
Non Disabled MIG	66	45	.	21
RP only	310	215	95	.

Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

- The numbers on key benefits rose between November 2000 and November 2001 by approximately 75 thousand. This continues the previous trend for a steady increase in the overall number of people within the pensioner client group.
- 76% of claimants moving onto a key benefit(s) between November 2000 and November 2001 received the state **Retirement Pension** as their only benefit.
- The number in the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group rose by 30 thousand between November 2000 and November 2001. However, more people stopped claiming a key benefit in this statistical group (252 thousand) than moved onto benefit directly into the sick and/or disabled statistical group (99 thousand). The rise is due to a net 182 thousand moving from the other statistical groups (most importantly RP only) into the sick and/or disabled group.
- A small number of cases (about 30 thousand) have been affected by a MIG equalisation of pensioner premiums exercise in April 2001. This had the effect of transferring cases from the sick and/or disabled to non-Disabled MIG statistical groups, counter to the usual direction. It is thought that this is a “one-off glitch” and, although the 30 thousand cases affected are unlikely to be “corrected” it should not occur again. The implications for analysis are that:
 - Year-on-year transitions spanning April 2001, from the sick and/or disabled group to non-disabled MIG, will be artificially inflated by approximately 30 thousand;
 - The non-disabled MIG caseload will include approximately 30 thousand claimants who should probably be in the sick and disabled group, although over time this effect will gradually wither.

Table 2.5a Cases moving onto key benefits between May 1996 and November 2001: by gender and statistical group

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All	Male	Female
All	3,052	1,362	1,691
Sick and/or Disabled	551	301	250
Non Disabled MIG	158	63	95
RP only	2,343	998	1,345

Table 2.5b Cases receiving key benefits at May 1996 but no longer receiving key benefits in November 2001: by gender and statistical group

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All	Male	Female
All	2,763	1,169	1,595
Sick and/or Disabled	1,065	383	683
Non Disabled MIG	235	71	165
RP only	1,463	715	748

Table 2.5c Cases changing statistical group between May 1996 and November 2001

Statistical group in November 1996	<i>Thousands</i>			
	Statistical group in November 2001			
	All	Sick and/or Disabled	Non Disabled MIG	RP only
All	1,352	996	210	146
Sick and/or Disabled	112	.	16	96
Non Disabled MIG	238	188	.	50
RP only	1,002	808	194	.

- The overall number of claimants on key benefits has risen during the period May 1996 to November 2001 by 289 thousand, with the number moving onto key benefits (3,052 thousand) exceeding those no longer claiming a key benefit (2,763 thousand). The main reason for no longer claiming a key benefit is the death of the claimant.
- Approximately 60% of people on a key benefit in May 1996 were in the same statistical group in November 2001, 27% were no longer on a key benefit and 13% 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 in order of priority.

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 and SDA
	5	RP only (receiving IVA or in hospital)
	6	RP and one of AA or DLA
	7	RP and MIG
	8	RP and MIG and one of AA or DLA
Non Disabled MIG	9	MIG claimants not in sick and disabled statistical group
RP Only	10	Receiving RP 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 1996 to November 2001

Thousands and percentages

	May 1996	%	May 1997	%	May 1998	%	Nov 1999	%	Nov 2000	%	Nov 2001	%
	All		All		All		All		All		All	
All	2,114	100	2,219	100	2,295	100	2,365	100	2,454	100	2,484	100
AA or DLA	60	3	56	3	53	2	49	2	40	2	40	2
IB or SDA	143	7	105	5	65	3	10	-	4	-	3	-
AA or DLA and IB or SDA	79	4	66	3	50	2	22	1	19	1	18	1
MIG only/MIG with AA or DLA or IB or SDA	99	5	92	4	83	4	74	3	69	3	67	3
RP only (IVA or in hospital)	164	8	186	7	215	9	210	9	226	9	232	9
RP and one of AA or DLA	898	42	996	46	1,094	48	1,238	52	1,295	53	1,332	54
RP and MIG	140	7	151	7	155	7	156	7	163	7	138	6
RP and MIG and AA or DLA	532	25	567	26	580	25	607	26	639	26	654	26

Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

- the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group increased by 370 thousand (+18%) between May 1996 and November 2001.
- RP plus AA or DLA in November 2001 accounted for over half (54%) of the total claimants within the sick and/or disabled statistical group. This compares with only 42% in May 1996.
- The numbers claiming RP, plus MIG and AA or DLA rose more slowly but maintained its relative size (25-26%) in terms of overall proportion.
- The number claiming RP as their only benefit but classed within the **sick and disabled** statistical group has increased from 164 thousand in May 1996 to 232 thousand in November 2001. 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: November 2001

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>					
	All	%	Male	%	Female	%
All	2,484	100	887	100	1,597	100
AA or DLA	40	2	12	1	28	2
IB or SDA	3	-	-	-	3	-
AA or DLA and IB or SDA	18	1	-	-	18	1
MIG only or MIG with AA or DLA or IB or SDA	67	3	16	2	51	3
RP only (IVA or hospital cases)	232	9	176	20	56	3
RP and one of AA or DLA	1,332	54	487	55	845	53
RP and MIG	138	6	42	5	95	6
RP and MIG and AA or DLA	654	26	152	17	502	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 and SDA
5	RP (hospital or IVA)	6	RP and one of AA or DLA
7	RP and MIG	8	RP 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 887 thousand at November 2001.
- Approximately 75% of men over state pension age and classed within the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group received AA or DLA at November 2001, either on their own or in combination with other benefits.
- 20% of men within the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group receive RP 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

Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

**Table 3.3 Claimants by all benefit combinations and gender:
November 2001**

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All	Male	Female
All	10,442	3,842	6,600
DLA only	22	6	16
AA only	17	6	11
DLA,AA	-	-	-
SDA only	3	-	3
SDA,DLA	17	-	17
SDA,AA	1	-	1
SDA,DLA,AA	-	-	-
IB only	-	-	-
IB,DLA	-	-	-
MIG only	67	20	47
MIG,DLA	18	5	13
MIG,AA	17	4	13
MIG,DLA,AA	-	-	-
MIG,SDA	5	1	4
MIG,SDA,DLA	14	3	11
MIG,SDA,AA	2	1	1
MIG,SDA,AA,DLA	-	-	-
MIG,IB	-	-	-
MIG,IB,DLA	-	-	-
MIG,IB,AA	-	-	-
RP Only	7,530	2,970	4,560
RP,DLA	450	189	261
RP,AA	842	282	559
RP,AA,DLA	11	4	7
RP,MIG	778	199	579
RP,MIG,DLA	158	54	104
RP,MIG,AA	480	94	386
RP,MIG,AA,DLA	8	2	6

All benefit combinations present in November 2001 are presented in Table 3.3. The six most important in order of magnitude are:- RP Only (72%); RP and AA (8%); RP and MIG (7%); RP,MIG and AA (5%); RP and DLA (4%); RP,MIG and DLA (1.5%).

Section 4 – Claimants with Dependants

The statistical group analyses for the population over state pension age usually only produces 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 : November 2001

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All	Male	Female
All	10,442	3,842	6,600
No dependant	10,063	3,595	6,468
Adult dependant	229	200	29
Child dependant	8	5	3
Adult & Child dependants	13	13	-
Not known ¹	128	29	99

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 (2.4%) with a child and/or adult dependant at November 2001.
- 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 fifth of one percent of the claimants over state pension age had a claim that included a child dependant (21 thousand).

Section 5 – Regional Analysis

Table 5.1 Claimants of key benefits by gender and Government Office Region: November 2001

	Thousands and percentages					
	All		Men		Women	
	(000s)	% of pop [†]	(000s)	% of pop [†]	(000s)	% of pop [†]
Great Britain	10,442	99	3,842	100	6,600	98
England	8,939	99	3,305	100	5,635	98
North East	485	100	178	100	307	98
North West	1,253	100	456	100	797	98
Yorkshire & Humberside	919	99	338	100	581	97
East Midlands	767	99	289	100	478	98
West Midlands	969	100	360	100	609	98
East of England	1,016	100	385	100	632	99
London	1,016	96	367	97	650	95
South East	1,475	98	545	100	929	97
South West	1,039	100	387	100	652	98
Wales	575	98	213	100	362	97
Scotland	928	100	324	100	603	100

1. *Population of residents above pension age. Population data sources ONS and Scottish Registrar. November 2001 percentages based on mid 2000 population estimates. 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 at least 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 November 2001 ranges from 96% in London to 100% in several regions.
- The government office region with the highest proportion claiming a key **sickness and/or disability benefit** is Wales (35%), followed by the North East (31%), North West (30%) and Scotland (29%). The South East (15%) has the lowest proportion followed by London, East of England and the South West (19%).
- The proportion of the population over state pension age in the **non-disabled MIG group** ranges from 9% in London down to 5% in Wales.
- South East has the highest proportion of the pensioner population receiving **RP only** (78%), followed by East of England (76%). The lowest proportions receiving **RP only** are in Wales (58%), North East (62%) and North West (63%).

Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

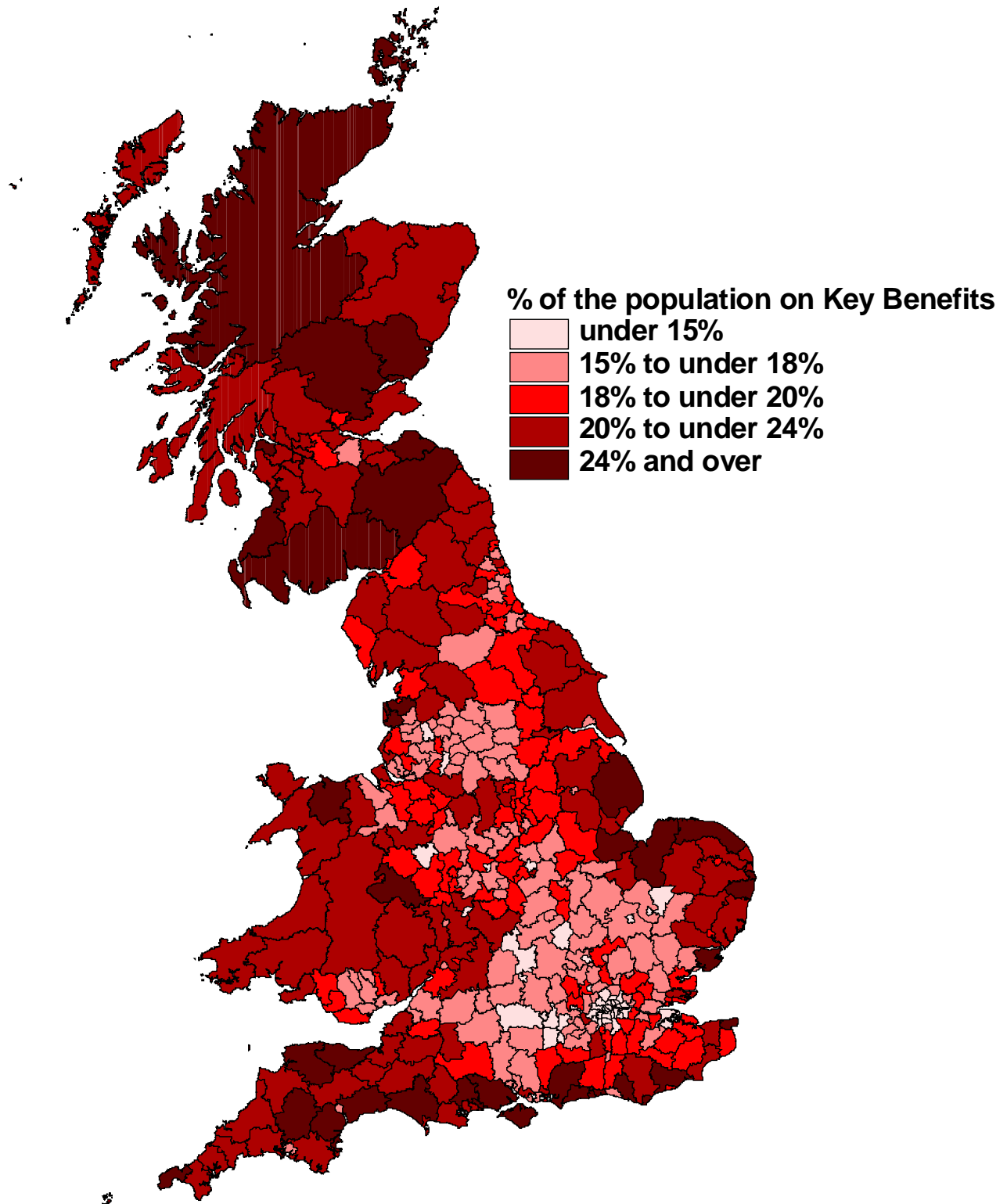
Table 5.2 Claimants of key benefits by statistical group and Government Office Region: November 2001

Thousands and percentages

		Client Group			
		All	Sick and Disabled	Non Disabled MIG	RP only
Great Britain	(000s)	10,442	2,484	689	7,270
	% of pop ¹	99	24	7	69
England	(000s)	8,939	2,013	597	6,329
	% of pop ¹	99	22	7	70
North East	(000s)	485	150	36	299
	% of pop ¹	100	31	7	62
North West	(000s)	1,253	379	80	794
	% of pop ¹	100	30	6	63
Yorkshire & Humberside	(000s)	919	235	65	618
	% of pop ¹	99	25	7	67
East Midlands	(000s)	767	180	46	541
	% of pop ¹	99	23	6	70
West Midlands	(000s)	969	247	71	651
	% of pop ¹	100	25	7	67
East of England	(000s)	1,016	188	58	770
	% of pop ¹	100	19	6	76
London	(000s)	1,016	204	100	712
	% of pop ¹	96	19	9	67
South East	(000s)	1,475	226	83	1,166
	% of pop ¹	98	15	6	78
South West	(000s)	1,039	203	58	778
	% of pop ¹	100	19	6	75
Wales	(000s)	575	205	30	340
	% of pop ¹	98	35	5	58
Scotland	(000s)	928	266	62	600
	% of pop ¹	100	29	7	65

1. *Population of 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 at least 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: November 2001



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 RP 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 RP 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.

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.

Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

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 November 2001 whereas the ONS data are mid-year estimates for 2000, 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 November 2001 but the latest population estimates are based on mid-2000.
- The CGA data are based on a 5% sample, the population estimates data are based on the 1991 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 retirement 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

Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

did not already have them was carried out in the mid to late 1980s. It is possible 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 RP data, caused by the time lag between death of the claimant and the department being notified and then updating the RP 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 2000/2001, 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” (18th-24th September 2000). 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 2000/2001, 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). WFP recipients not on any benefit were approached by a private sector provider with appropriate claim details. Winter 2001/2002 WFP data is currently being processed by the ASD Information Centre: statistics will be published shortly.

Table 1 Winter Fuel Payments by Government Office Region and gender: Winter 2000/2001

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All	Male	Female
Great Britain	11,123	4,811	6,312
England	9,526	4,132	5,394
North East	516	226	290
North West	1,336	579	757
Yorkshire and the Humber	982	428	554
East Midlands	819	363	456
West Midlands	1,035	456	579
East of England	1,082	475	607
London	1,083	456	627
South East	1,574	674	901
South West	1,099	474	625
Wales	614	269	344
Scotland	984	410	574

Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

Table 2 Winter Fuel Payments by feeder benefit¹ and gender: Winter 2000/2001

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All	Male	Female
All	11,123	4,811	6,312
AA	7	2	5
DLA	17	10	8
IB	256	255	1
MIG	1,425	483	942
RP	8,652	3,404	5,248
SDA	21	3	18
PSP*	671	617	54
Others	75	38	37

1 Benefit hierarchy for payments is:

- MIG
- JSA
- RP
- WB
- IB
- SDA
- War pension
- War widows allowance
- Temporary allowance for widows of severely disabled war pensioners
- AA
- DLA
- ICA
- Industrial injuries disablement
- Reduced earnings allowance
- Retirement allowance
- Pneumoconiosis, byssinosis and miscellaneous diseases benefits
- Workmen's compensation scheme
- Private Sector Provider (not in receipt of any benefit)