

# **Client Group Analysis of the population over State Pension age**

**November 2003**

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Background information

DWP Information Centre (Information and Analysis 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.

Pension Credit (PC) replaced the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) on 6th October 2003. As well as continuing the income guarantee entitlement available to pensioners under MIG - termed Guarantee Credit (GC) in PC - PC brings in a new Savings Credit (SC) element to reward pensioners with modest savings.

The vast majority of pensioners who were previously in receipt of MIG transferred to PC on 6th October 2003. However, by end-November 2003 there were still a small number of claims (around 15 thousand) that had not been transferred to PC. The main reason why these cases were not transferred to Pension Credit was because the claimant was aged under 60 and the partner aged 60 or over. Those claimants who have not transferred to Pension Credit continue to receive benefit at the rate they received under MIG.

In addition, several hundred thousand additional pensioner households not previously entitled to MIG are entitled to PC. These are households who have deemed income from savings and/or a second pension that takes them above the guarantee level in Guarantee Credit, but who are now rewarded for those savings via the Savings Credit (SC) element of PC. SC is available to pensioner households where at least one of the benefit unit is aged 65+. The GC element of PC applies to pensioner households where at least one of the benefit unit is aged 60+, as with previously under MIG.

As many more pensioners are entitled to PC than MIG, the PC caseload is already beginning to increase significantly compared with MIG. At August 2003, there were 1.80m pensioners in receipt of MIG, increasing to 2.06m pensioners in receipt of PC at November 2003. The knock-on effect for the client group analysis of pensioners on key benefits is that the non-disabled PC group is significantly larger than the previous non-disabled MIG group, at the expense of the SP-only statistical group. This trend should continue through subsequent editions of this client group analysis because there is a target of 3.0m pensioner households receiving PC by 2006.

Figures in this and future DWP publications have been/will be affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit (CTC) in April 2003. The main changes are:

- Child dependency increases paid with non-income related benefits are abolished for new claims to State Pension, Bereavement Benefit, Incapacity Benefit and Carer's Allowance from April 2003.
- CTC will replace the child elements of Income Support (IS) and income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA(IB)). This will happen from April 2004 onwards.

The figures in the statistical groups for November 2001 and November 2002 differ from those published in the Client Group Analysis on the Population Over State Pension Age Claiming Key Benefits: November 2002. The methodology for creating the statistical groups has been updated to give a more accurate breakdown of the characteristics of the claimants. This change has resulted in claimants who were previously in the SP only group moving into the sick and disabled group. The overall totals have not been affected.

A small number of IS/ JSA(IB) recipients have ceased to be eligible since CTC has in payment. This is because CTC payments will raise total income above the IS/JSA(IB) threshold, or other income exceeds the threshold once child allowances are removed.

We therefore advise that customers exercise caution when performing year on year comparisons, or when comparing with the previous quarter.

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 November 1997 have been re-ran 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 IAD 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.asp>

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**DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS  
Information and Analysis Directorate**

**Client Group Analysis on the Population  
Over State Pension Age Claiming Key Benefits:  
November 2003.**

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## Definitions and conventions

### 1. Key benefits

Attendance Allowance (AA)

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

Incapacity Benefit (IB)

Pension Credit (used to be Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) i.e. Income Support for those aged 60+)

State Pension (SP, also known as Retirement Pension, RP)

Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA)

Figures in this bulletin November be affected by the introduction of New Tax Credits in April 2003. Please see background information for further details

### 2. Statistical groups

#### **Sick and/or disabled**

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

or receiving PC 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 Pension Credit**

PC claimants not included in the sick and/or disabled category

#### **State Pension 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 PC only (disability-related Higher Pensioner Premium) or PC 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 PC
- 8 SP and PC and receiving AA or DLA

##### *Non Disabled Pension Credit*

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

##### *State Pension 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 November 2003 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	PC	Pension Credit
£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:  
Nov 1999 - Nov 2003**

	<i>Thousands</i>				
<b>All</b>	<b>Nov 1999</b>	<b>Nov 2000</b>	<b>Nov 2001</b>	<b>Nov 2002</b>	<b>Nov 2003</b>
	<b>10,338</b>	<b>10,367</b>	<b>10,442</b>	<b>10,497</b>	<b>10,592</b>
<b>% of pop<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>99</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100</b>
Men	3,761	3,785	3,842	3,883	3,934
<b>% of pop<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Women	6,577	6,582	6,600	6,614	6,658
<b>% of pop<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>99</b>

1. Population of GB residents above state pension age. Population data sources Office for National Statistics (ONS) and General Register Office, Scotland (GROS). November 2003 percentages derived from mid 2002 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 at least a year behind the benefit data and/or because of slight inaccuracies associated with the data sources themselves.

- In November 2003, approximately 10.6 million, or 100% 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; 99% compared with 100% respectively.

**Table 1.2 Claimants of key benefits by age and gender: Nov 2003**

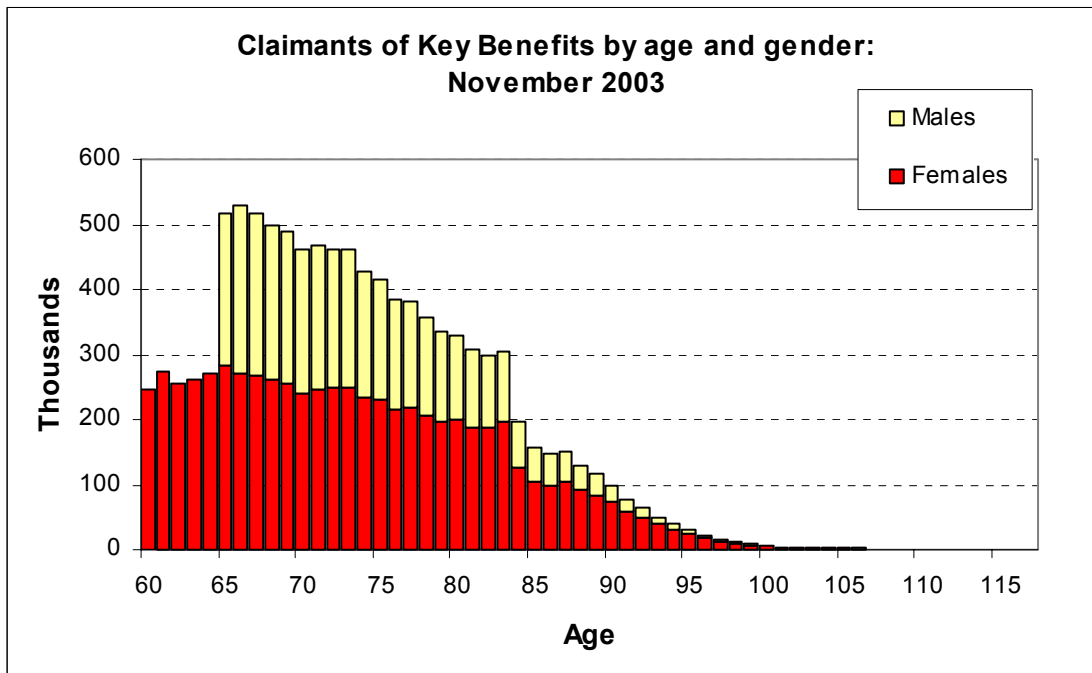
	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>					
	<b>All</b>	<b>% of pop<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>% of pop<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>% of pop<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>All ages</b>	<b>10,592</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,934</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6,658</b>	<b>99</b>
60-64	<b>1,307</b>		.		1,307	
65-69	<b>2,552</b>		1,218		1,333	
70-74	<b>2,277</b>		1,056		1,221	
75-79	<b>1,873</b>		804		1,070	
80-84	<b>1,435</b>		537		899	
85-89	<b>702</b>		220		482	
90+	<b>446</b>		99		346	

1. Population of GB residents above state pension age. Population data sources Office for National Statistics (ONS) and General Register Office, Scotland (GROS). November 2003 percentages derived from mid 2002 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 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

- The mismatch between the benefits data and the population estimates is particularly marked for people in their early 80s in November 2003, 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 83 years old (see chart 1.1 on the next page). In November 2003, the benefit caseload for those aged 83 (high due to the baby boom) is divided by the 2001 population estimate for those aged 83 (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 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 83 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 Pension Credit caseload is included within the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group.

As many more pensioners are entitled to PC than MIG, the PC caseload is already beginning to increase significantly compared with MIG. At August 2003, there were 1.80m pensioners in receipt of MIG, increasing to 2.06m pensioners in receipt of PC at November 2003. The knock-on effect for the client group analysis of pensioners on key benefits is that the non-disabled PC group is significantly larger than the previous non-disabled MIG group, at the expense of the SP only statistical group. This trend should continue through subsequent editions of this client group analysis because there is a target of 3.0m pensioner households receiving PC by 2006.

**Table 2.1 Claimants by statistical group: November 1999 to November 2003**

*Thousands and percentages<sup>1</sup>*

	Nov-99	% of pop <sup>1</sup>	Nov-00	% of pop <sup>1</sup>	Nov-01	% of pop <sup>1</sup>	Nov-02	% of pop <sup>1</sup>	Nov-03	% of pop <sup>1</sup>
<b>All</b>	<b>10,338</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>10,367</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>10,442</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>10,497</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>10,592</b>	<b>99</b>
Sick and/or Disabled	2,381	23	2,470	23	2,501	24	2,555	24	2,619	25
Non Disabled MIG/ Pension Credit	600	6	604	6	689	7	705	7	924	9
SP only	7,357	70	7,283	69	7,252	69	7,237	68	7,049	66

1. Population of GB residents above pension age: population data source: ONS and Scottish registrar: November 2003 percentages are based on mid 2002 population estimates

2. Population of GB residents above state pension age. Population data sources Office for National Statistics (ONS) and General Register Office, Scotland (GROS). November 2003 percentages derived from mid 2002 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 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 254 thousand between November 1999 and November 2003.
- The **sick and/or disabled** group has increased by 238 thousand during the period November 1999 to November 2003. In the year to November 2003 the number within this statistical group increased by 65 thousand.
- During the period November 1999 to November 2003, the **non disabled pension credit** statistical group increased by 324 thousand. In the year to November 2003 the number within this statistical group increased by 219 thousand.

Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

- The **SP only** statistical group has decreased by 308 thousand in the period November 1999 to November 2003. In the year to November 2003 the number within this statistical group decreased by 188 thousand.

**Table 2.2 Claimants by statistical group and gender: November 2003**

*Thousands and percentages<sup>1</sup>*

	<b>All</b>	<b>% of pop<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>% of pop<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>% of pop<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>All</b>	<b>10,592</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,934</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6,658</b>	<b>98</b>
Sick and/or Disabled Non Disabled	<b>2,619</b>	24	948	25	1,671	25
MIG/Pension Credit	<b>924</b>	7	270	5	654	8
State Pension only	<b>7,049</b>	68	2,716	72	4,333	66

1. Population of GB residents above state 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 accuracies associated with the data sources themselves.

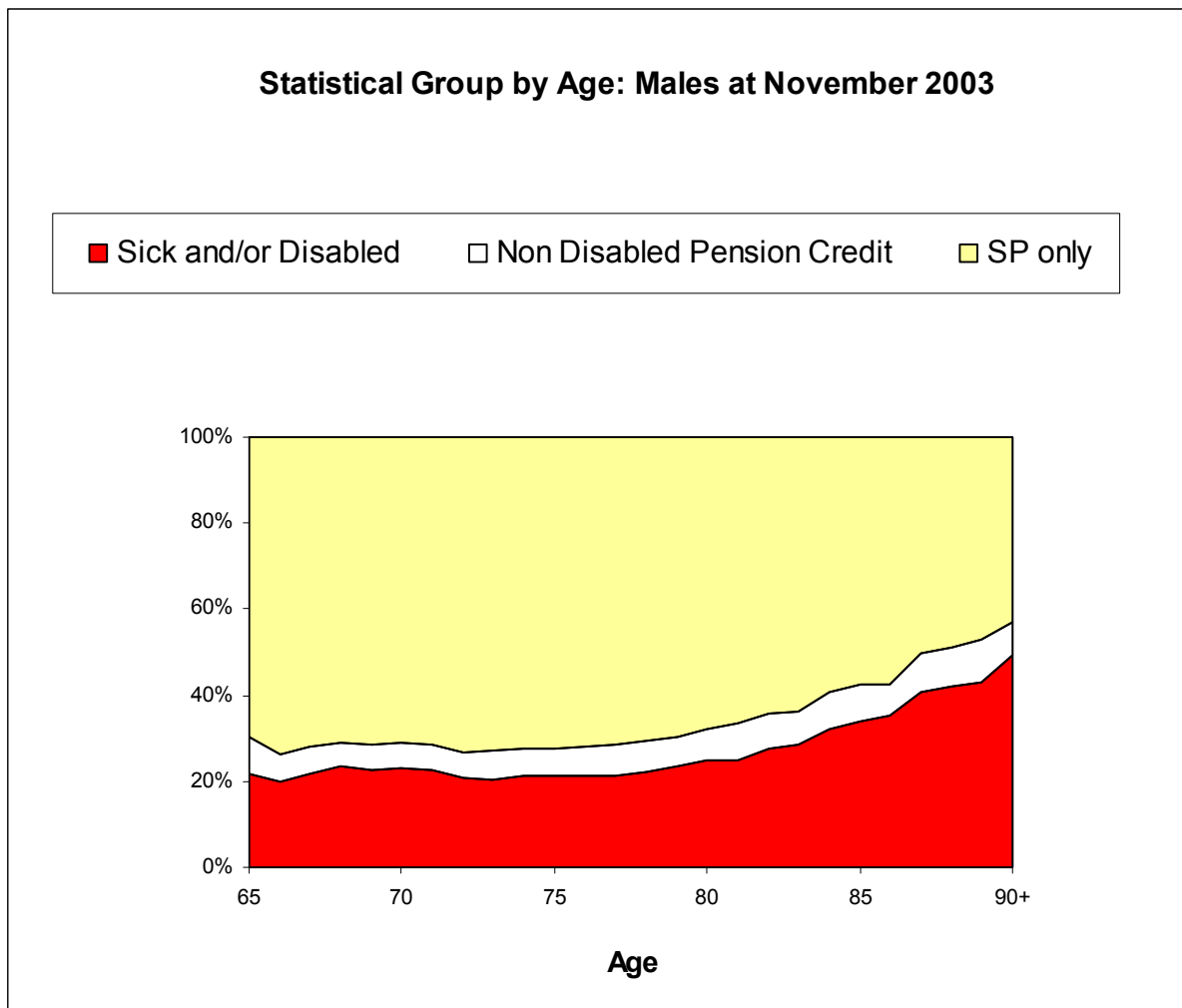
Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

**Table 2.3 Claimants by statistical group, age and gender: November 2003**

	<i>Thousands</i>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Sick and/or Disabled</b>	<b>Non Disabled MIG/Pension Credit</b>	<b>State Pension only</b>
<b>All ages</b>	<b>10,592</b>	<b>2,619</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>7,049</b>
60-64	1,307	208	82	1,018
65-69	2,552	474	191	1,887
70-74	2,277	442	188	1,647
75-79	1,873	425	189	1,260
80-84	1,435	464	163	807
85-89	702	338	78	286
90+	446	269	33	144
<b>Males</b>				
<b>All ages</b>	<b>3,934</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>2,716</b>
60-64	.	.	.	.
65-69	1,218	265	81	873
70-74	1,056	228	65	763
75-79	804	175	56	573
80-84	537	146	43	348
85-89	220	85	19	116
90+	99	49	8	43
<b>Females</b>				
<b>All ages</b>	<b>6,658</b>	<b>1,671</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>4,333</b>
60-64	1,307	208	82	1,018
65-69	1,333	209	110	1,014
70-74	1,221	213	124	884
75-79	1,070	250	133	687
80-84	899	319	121	459
85-89	482	253	59	170
90+	346	220	25	101

- 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).

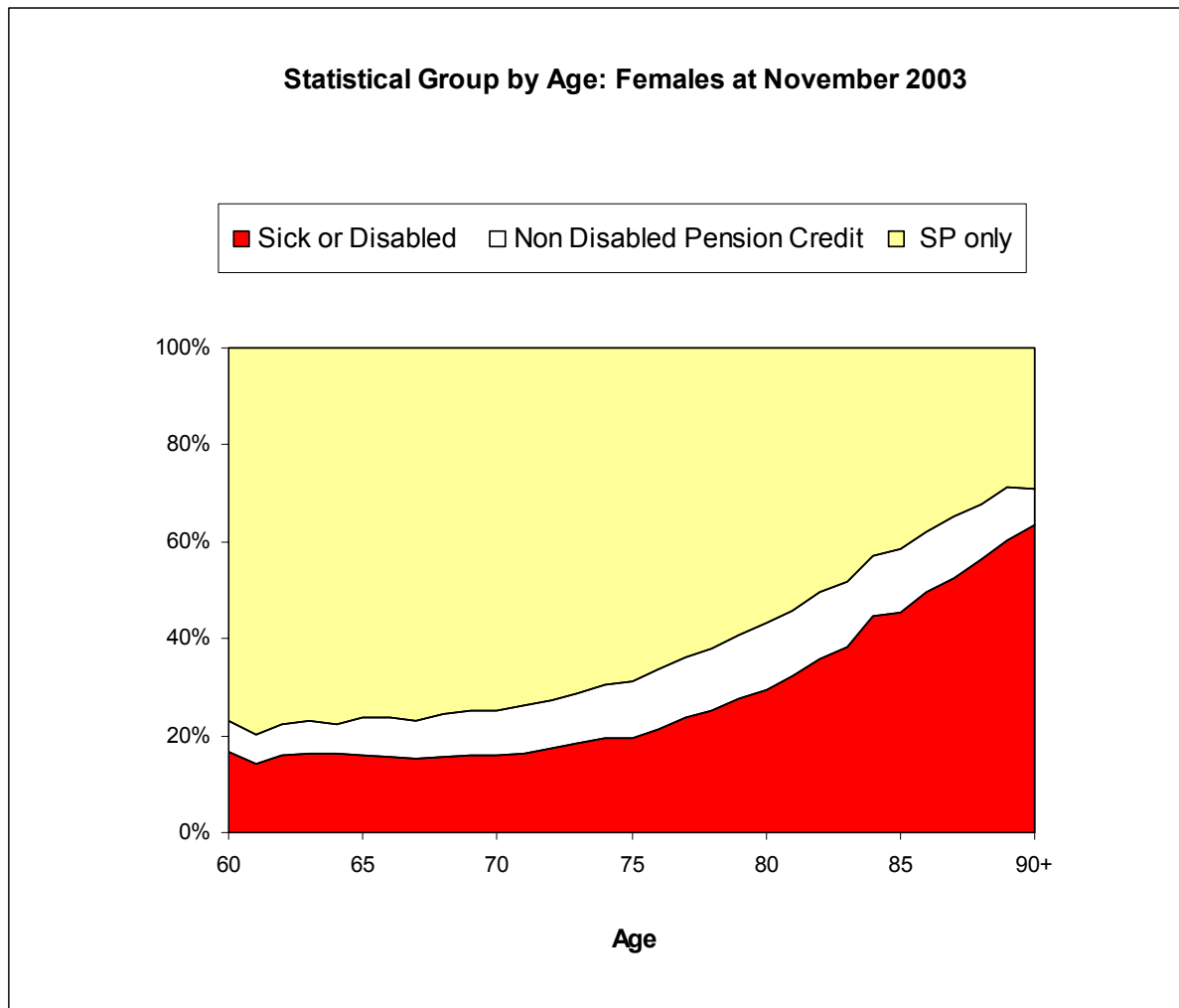
Chart 2.1



At November 2003 for men:

- the proportion in the **sick and/or disabled** group rises steadily after the 75-79 age group, peaking at almost 50% for men aged 85-89.
- the proportion in the **non-disabled PC** statistical group reaches a maximum of 11% in the 80-89 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, 69% of men over state pension age and receiving a key benefit 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 November 2003 for women:

- The proportion in the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group rises steadily from around age 75, to 64% for those aged 90+.
- The proportion of women in the **non-disabled PC** group is about 7% below age 70, rising to a maximum of 13% for the 80-84 age group, then falling back to around 7% for women aged 90+.
- Taken across the entire age range, 65% of women over state pension age and receiving a key benefit 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 Nov 2002 and Nov 2003 by gender and statistical group**

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	<b>All</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>336</b>
Sick and/or Disabled	<b>99</b>	53	46
Non Disabled MIG/Pension Credit	<b>43</b>	22	21
SP only	<b>469</b>	200	269

**Table 2.4b Cases receiving key benefits at Nov 2002 but no longer receiving key benefits in Nov 2003: by gender and statistical group**

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	<b>All</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>291</b>
Sick and/or Disabled	<b>287</b>	111	176
Non Disabled MIG/Pension Credit	<b>23</b>	8	15
SP only	<b>206</b>	105	100

**Table 2.4c Cases changing statistical group between Nov 2002 and Nov 2003**

	<i>Thousands</i>			
	<b>Statistical group in Nov 2003</b>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Sick and/or disabled</b>	<b>Non Disabled MIG/Pension Credit</b>	<b>SP only</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>51</b>
Sick and/or Disabled	<b>46</b>	.	10	36
Non Disabled MIG/Pension Credit	<b>67</b>	53	.	15
SP only	<b>502</b>	245	257	.

### Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

- The numbers on key benefits rose between November 2002 and November 2003 by approximately 95 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 2002 and November 2003 moved into **State Pension only** group.
- The number in the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group rose by 65 thousand between November 2002 and November 2003. However, more people stopped claiming a key benefit in this statistical group (287 thousand) than moved onto benefit directly into the sick and/or disabled statistical group (99 thousand). The rise is due to a net 245 thousand moving from the other statistical groups (most importantly SP only) into the sick and/or disabled group.

Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

**Table 2.5a Cases moving onto key benefits between Nov 1999 and Nov 2003: by gender and statistical group**

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All	Male	Female
<b>All</b>	<b>2,291</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>1,245</b>
Sick and/or Disabled	407	224	182
Non Disabled MIG/Pension Credit	153	72	82
SP only	1,731	750	981

**Table 2.5b Cases receiving key benefits at Nov 1999 but no longer receiving key benefits in Nov 2003: by statistical gender and group**

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	All	Male	Female
<b>All</b>	<b>2,037</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>1,164</b>
Sick and/or Disabled	939	342	597
Non Disabled MIG/Pension Credit	116	36	80
SP only	982	495	487

**Table 2.5c Cases changing statistical group between Nov 1999 and Nov 2003**

Statistical Grouping in Nov 1999	<i>Thousands</i>			
	Statistical group in Nov 2003			
	All	Sick and/or disabled	Non Disabled MIG/Pension Credit	SP only
<b>All</b>	<b>1,337</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>60</b>
Sick and/or Disabled	70	.	34	37
Non Disabled MIG/Pension Credit	149	126	.	24
SP only	1,118	715	402	.

**Table 2.5d Cases in same client group in Nov 1999 and Nov 2003**

	<i>Thousands</i>			
	All	Disabled	Non Disabled MIG/Pension Credit	SP only
<b>All</b>	<b>6,965</b>	<b>1,372</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>5,258</b>

## Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

- The overall number of claimants on key benefits has risen during the period November 1999 to November 2003 by 254 thousand, with the number moving onto key benefits (2,291 thousand) exceeding those no longer claiming a key benefit (2,034 thousand). The main reason for no longer claiming a key benefit is the death of the claimant.
- Approximately 84% of people on a key benefit in November 1999 and still claiming benefit in November 2003, were in the same statistical group in November 2003; 16% had moved statistical group; and 19% of those on a key benefit in November 1999 were no longer on a key benefit 4 years later.

### 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
<b>Sick and/or Disabled</b>	1	AA or DLA <sup>1</sup>
	2	IB or SDA <sup>1</sup>
	3	One of AA or DLA and one of IB or SDA
	4	PC only (disability related higher pensioner premium) or PC 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 PC
	8	SP and PC and one of AA or DLA
<b>PC</b>	9	PC claimants not in sick and disabled statistical group
<b>SP Only</b>	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: Nov 1999 to Nov 2003**

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>									
	Nov 1999		Nov 2000		Nov 2001		Nov 2002		Nov 2003	
	All	%	All	%	All	%	All	%	All	%
<b>All</b>	<b>2,381</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,470</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,501</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,555</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,619</b>	<b>100</b>
AA or DLA	49	2	40	2	40	2	32	1	34	1
IB or SDA	10	-	4	-	3	-	3	-	3	-
AA or DLA and IB or SDA	22	1	19	1	19	1	18	1	18	1
MIG only/MIG with AA or DLA or IB or SDA	74	3	69	3	67	3	72	3	74	3
SP only (IVA or in hospital)	256	11	263	11	278	11	260	10	239	9
SP and one of AA or DLA	1,209	51	1,273	52	1,303	52	1,376	54	1,371	52
SP and PC	163	7	170	7	146	6	133	5	130	5
SP and PC and AA or DLA	599	25	632	26	645	26	661	26	752	29

- the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group increased by 238 thousand (+10%) between November 1999 and November 2003.

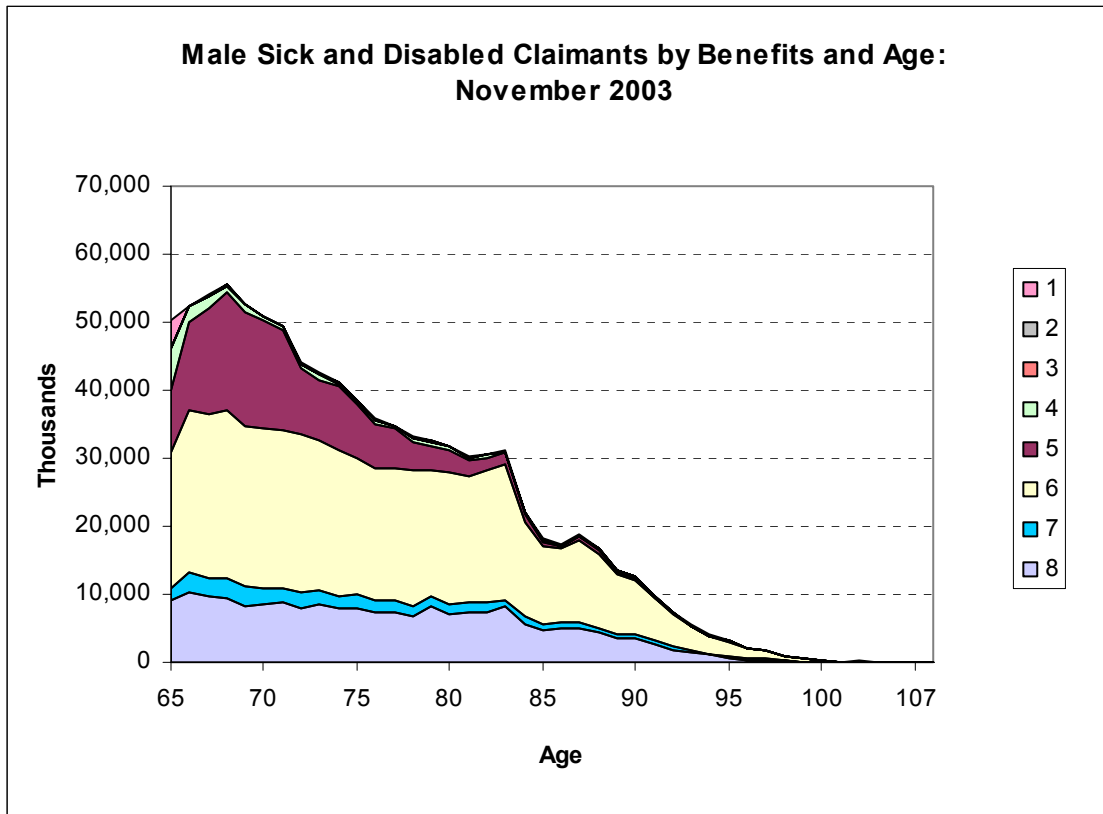
**Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain**

- SP plus AA or DLA in November 2003 accounted for over half (52%) of the total claimants within the sick and/or disabled statistical group. This compares with 50% in November 1999.
- The numbers claiming SP, plus PC and AA or DLA rose more slowly but maintained its relative size (28/29%) in terms of overall proportion.
- The number claiming SP as their only benefit but classed within the **sick and disabled** statistical group was virtually unchanged between November 1999 (240 thousand) and November 2003 (239 thousand). 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: Nov 2003**

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>					
	<b>All</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>2,619</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,671</b>	<b>100</b>
AA or DLA	<b>34</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>
IB or SDA	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
AA or DLA and IB or SDA	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>
MIG only/MIG with AA or DLA or IB or SDA	<b>74</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>3</b>
SP only (IVA or in hospital)	<b>239</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>4</b>
SP and one of AA or DLA	<b>1,371</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>52</b>
SP and PC	<b>130</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>5</b>
SP and PC and AA or DLA	<b>752</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>33</b>

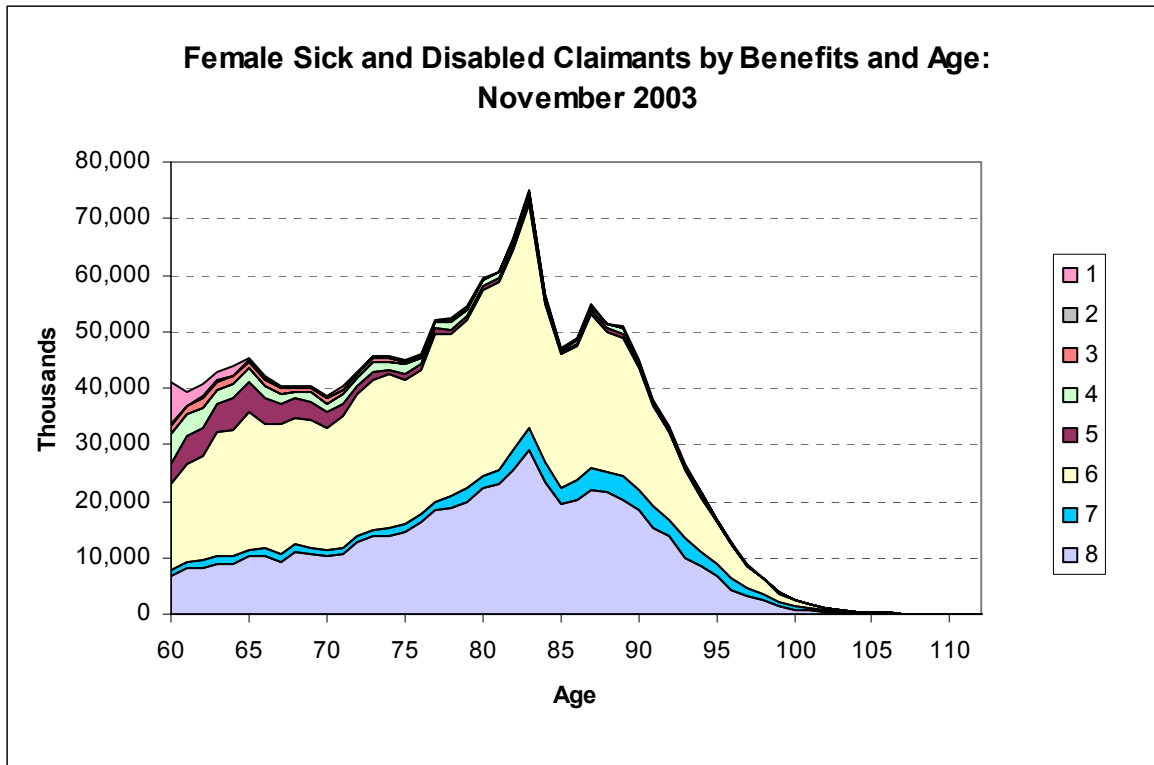
Chart 3.1



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

- Overall, the number of men over state pension age in the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group totalled 948 thousand at November 2003.
- Three-quarters of men over state pension age and classed within the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group received AA or DLA at November 2003, either on their own or in combination with other benefits.
- 18% 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 (4%) 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	PC only / PC with any of AA, DLA, IB or SDA
5	SP (hospital or IVA)
6	SP and one of AA or DLA
7	SP and PC
8	SP and PC and one of AA or DLA

- Overall, the number of women over state pension age in the **sick and/or disabled** statistical group totalled 1,671 thousand at November 2003.
- 88% 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 PC.
- The rise in women aged 83, compared with 84 year olds, is due to the First World War and period immediately after . 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: November 2003**

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	<b>All</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>10,592</b>	<b>3,934</b>	<b>6,658</b>
DLA only	<b>24</b>	5	18
AA only	<b>10</b>	2	8
DLA, AA	-	-	-
SDA only	<b>3</b>	-	2
SDA, DLA	<b>17</b>	-	16
SDA, AA	<b>1</b>	-	1
SDA, DLA, AA	-	-	-
IB only	-	-	-
IB, DLA	-	-	-
PC only	<b>75</b>	26	49
PC, DLA	<b>23</b>	8	16
PC, AA	<b>18</b>	5	14
PC, DLA, AA	-	-	-
PC, SDA	<b>5</b>	2	3
PC, SDA, DLA	<b>16</b>	4	12
PC, SDA, AA	<b>2</b>	1	1
PC, SDA, AA, DLA	-	-	-
PC, IB	-	-	-
PC, IB, DLA	-	-	-
PC, IB, AA	-	-	-
SP only	<b>7,288</b>	2,888	4,400
SP, DLA	<b>477</b>	196	280
SP, AA	<b>887</b>	305	582
SP, AA, DLA	<b>8</b>	3	5
SP, PC	<b>988</b>	292	696
SP, PC, DLA	<b>215</b>	80	135
SP, PC, AA	<b>530</b>	116	415
SP, PC, AA, DLA	<b>6</b>	1	5

All benefit combinations present in November 2003 are presented in Table 3.3. The six most important in order of magnitude are:- SP Only (68%); SP and AA (8%); SP and PC (9%); SP,PC and AA (5%); SP and DLA (5%); SP,PC 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: Nov 2003**

	<i>Thousands</i>		
	<b>All</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>10,592</b>	<b>3,934</b>	<b>6,658</b>
No dependants	<b>10,190</b>	3,630	6,560
Adult dependant	<b>360</b>	289	71
Child dependant	<b>5</b>	4	2
Adult & Child dependants	<b>4</b>	4	-
Not known <sup>1</sup>	<b>34</b>	8	26

1. Cases where AA or DLA only is being claimed.
2. Information on dependants is not available from these sources.
3. Figures in this table may be affected by the introduction of new tax credits in April 2003. Please see background information document for further details

- Table 4.1 shows relatively few people over state pension age (3%) with a child and/or adult dependant at November 2003.
- For men the proportion with a recorded dependant(s) is 7%, mostly in respect of an adult dependant.
- The proportion of women claiming for a dependant(s) is even lower (1%).
- Only approximately one twelfth of one percent of the claimants over state pension age had a claim that included a child dependant (9 thousand).

## Section 5 – Regional Analysis

**Table 5.1 Claimants of key benefits by gender and Government Office Region: November 2003**

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>					
	All		Men		Women	
	(000s)	% of pop <sup>†</sup>	(000s)	% of pop <sup>†</sup>	(000s)	% of pop <sup>†</sup>
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>10,592</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,934</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6,658</b>	<b>98</b>
England	<b>9,064</b>	100	3,381	100	5,683	99
North East	<b>487</b>	100	181	100	306	99
North West	<b>1,266</b>	100	466	100	800	99
Yorkshire & Humberside	<b>927</b>	100	345	100	582	98
East Midlands	<b>786</b>	100	299	100	487	99
West Midlands	<b>988</b>	100	369	100	619	99
East of England	<b>1,038</b>	100	396	100	642	99
London	<b>1,007</b>	98	368	98	639	97
South East	<b>1,501</b>	99	559	100	942	98
South West	<b>1,063</b>	100	398	100	665	99
Wales	<b>587</b>	100	219	100	367	98
Scotland	<b>942</b>	99	333	100	609	98

1. *Population of residents above state pension age. Population data sources Office for national Statistics (ONS) and General Register Office, Scotland (GROS). November 2003 percentages derived from mid 2002 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 November 2003 ranges from 98% in London to 100% in the North East, North West, Yorkshire and Humberside, East Midlands, West Midlands, East of England, South West and Wales.
- The government office region with the highest proportion claiming a key **sickness and/or disability benefit** is Wales (37%), followed by the North East (32%), the North West (31%) and Scotland (29%). The South East (16%) has the lowest proportion followed by East of England (19%).
- The proportion of the population over state pension age in the **non-disabled PC group** ranges from 12% in London down to 7% in Wales and the South East.
- South East has the highest proportion of the pensioner population receiving **SP only** (75%), followed by East of England (74%). The lowest proportions receiving **SP only** are in Wales (56%), the North East (57%), North West and Scotland (61%).

Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

**Table 5.1 Claimants of key benefits by gender and Government Office Region: November 2003**

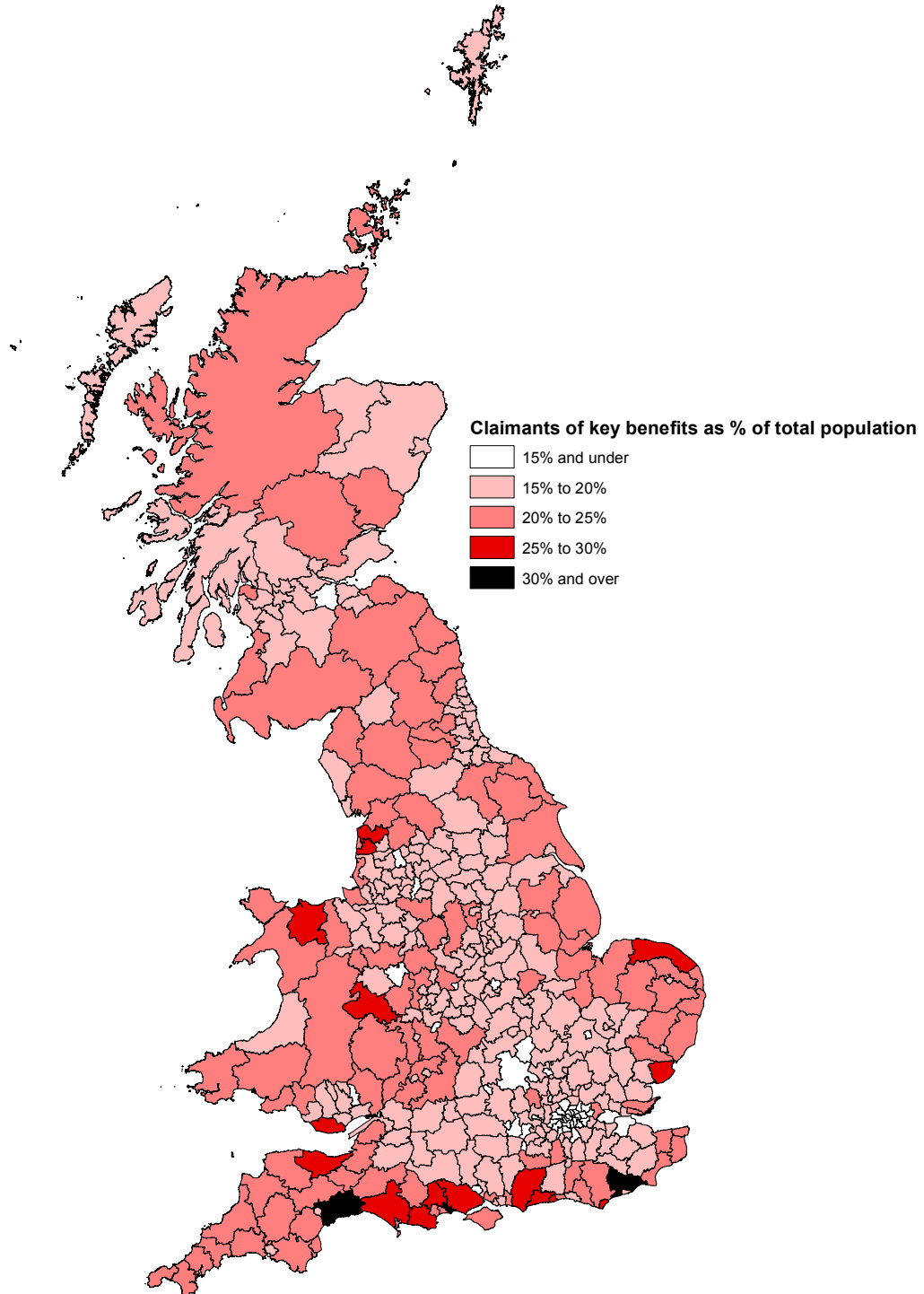
*Thousands and percentages*

		Client Group			
		All	Sick and Disabled	Non Disabled Pension Credit	SP only
Great Britain	(000s)	10,592	2,619	924	7,049
	% of pop1	100	25	9	66
England	(000s)	9,064	2,125	799	6,140
	% of pop1	100	23	9	67
North East	(000s)	487	157	52	278
	% of pop1	100	32	11	57
North West	(000s)	1,266	396	108	762
	% of pop1	101	31	9	61
Yorkshire & Humberside	(000s)	927	240	91	596
	% of pop1	100	26	10	64
East Midlands	(000s)	786	190	65	531
	% of pop1	100	24	8	68
West Midlands	(000s)	988	261	96	632
	% of pop1	100	26	10	64
East of England	(000s)	1,038	201	72	765
	% of pop1	100	19	7	74
London	(000s)	1,007	218	120	669
	% of pop1	98	21	12	65
South East	(000s)	1,501	244	111	1,146
	% of pop1	99	16	7	75
South West	(000s)	1,063	218	84	761
	% of pop1	100	20	8	71
Wales	(000s)	587	215	40	331
	% of pop1	100	37	7	56
Scotland	(000s)	942	279	85	578
	% of pop1	99	29	9	61

1. *population of residents above state pension age. Population data sources Office for national Statistics (ONS) and General Register Office, Scotland (GROS). November 2003 percentages derived from mid 2002 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.*

Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

Figure 1: Population over State Pension Age on Key Benefits as a percentage of Total Population by Local Authority: November 2003



## 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 IAD 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, IAD 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.

Pension Credit (PC) replaced the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) on 6th October 2003. As well as continuing the income guarantee entitlement available to pensioners under MIG - termed Guarantee Credit (GC) in PC - PC brings in a new Savings Credit (SC) element to reward pensioners with modest savings.

The vast majority of pensioners who were previously in receipt of MIG transferred to PC on 6th October 2003. However, by end-November 2003 there were still a small number of claims (around 15 thousand) that had not been transferred to PC. The main reason why these cases were not transferred to Pension Credit was because the claimant was aged under 60 and the partner aged 60 or over. Those claimants who have not transferred to Pension Credit continue to receive benefit at the rate they received under MIG.

In addition, several hundred thousand additional pensioner households not previously entitled to MIG are entitled to PC. These are households who have deemed income from savings and/or a second pension that takes them above the guarantee level in Guarantee Credit, but who are now rewarded for those savings via the Savings Credit (SC) element of PC. SC is available to pensioner households where at least one of the benefit unit is aged 65+. The GC element of PC applies to pensioner households where at least one of the benefit unit is aged 60+, as previously under MIG.

As many more pensioners are entitled to PC than MIG, the PC caseload is already beginning to increase significantly compared with MIG. At August 2003, there were 1.80m pensioners in receipt of MIG, increasing to 2.06m pensioners in receipt of PC at November 2003. The knock-on effect for the client group analysis of pensioners on key benefits is that the non-disabled PC group is significantly larger than the previous non-disabled MIG group, at the expense of the SP only statistical group. This trend should continue through subsequent editions of this client group analysis because there is a target of 3.0m pensioner households receiving PC by 2006.

### Introduction of New Tax Credits

Figures in this, and future DWP publications have been/will be affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit (CTC) in April 2003. The main changes are:

### **Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain**

- Child dependency increases paid with non-income related benefits are abolished for new claims to State Pension, Bereavement Benefit, Incapacity Benefit and Carer's Allowance from April 2003.
- CTC will replace the child elements of Income Support (IS) and income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA(IB)). This will happen from April 2004 onwards.

A small number of IS/ JSA(IB) recipients are no longer eligible since CTC has been in payment. This is because CTC payments raises total income above the IS/JSA(IB) threshold, or other income exceeds the threshold once child allowances are removed.

We therefore advise that customers exercise caution when performing year on year comparisons, or when comparing with the previous quarter.

## 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 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 2003 whereas the ONS data are mid-year estimates for 2001, the latest published. On one hand we 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 2003 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-November 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

## Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

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

Winter Fuel Payments (WFP) are paid to people over the age of 60 and normally resident in Great Britain or Northern Ireland during the “Q-Week” ahead of each winter (currently the third full week in September). People are not eligible for WFP if:

- They have been in hospital for more than 52 weeks;
- They live with their partner who qualifies for a payment because they receive PC/JSA(IB);
- They do not normally live in Great Britain or Northern Ireland;
- They are held in custody and sentenced;
- They are under immigration control and not eligible for help from the DWP;
- They receive PC/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”.

Since winter 2001-02, 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. Since winter 2003-2004 an extra £100 payment was made to each household where there was at least one person was aged 80 or over. 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).

People aged 60+ not in receipt of benefit – principally men aged 60-64 - were eligible for WFP for the first time in winter 2000-01 (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 use in subsequent years.

For subsequent winters, 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).

Winter Fuel Payment data is taken from a 100% sample.

Please note that the 2003-2004 figures in this bulletin refer only to the main payment run i.e. they do not include the late payment run figures.

We estimate that there are approximately 100,000 people in Great Britain paid via late payment runs (0.8% of all payments). However, since late payment runs are mainly in respect of non-system cases whose claim had not been received by Qualifying Week, they are heavily skewed towards men aged 60.

Population over state pension age claiming key benefits: Great Britain

**Table 1 Winter Fuel Payments by Government Office Region and gender: Winter 2003-04**

	All	Male	Female
<b>All</b>	<b>11,389,335</b>	<b>5,008,930</b>	<b>6,380,405</b>
North East	516,740	229,700	287,040
North West	1,354,445	595,950	758,500
Yorkshire and the Humber	995,750	440,865	554,885
East Midlands	855,095	385,105	469,990
West Midlands	1,066,130	477,335	588,795
East of England	1,119,655	497,610	622,045
London	1,071,220	463,580	607,640
South East	1,626,490	705,555	920,930
South West	1,139,730	501,265	638,465
Wales	632,475	281,440	351,035
Scotland	1,011,605	430,525	581,080

**Table 2 Winter Fuel Payments by feeder benefit/payment system<sup>1</sup> and gender: Winter 2003-4**

	All	Male	Female
<b>All</b>	<b>11,389,335</b>	<b>5,008,930</b>	<b>6,380,405</b>
AA	6,665	1,905	4,760
DLA	17,600	11,415	6,185
IB	211,920	210,305	1,615
MIG	1,629,360	578,005	1,051,355
PSP	137,730	126,280	11,455
SP	8,667,715	3,438,365	5,229,350
SDA	18,400	2,655	15,745
WFP	634,295	600,995	33,300
Other benefits*	65,650	39,005	26,645

1. Benefit hierarchy for payments is:

- Minimum Income Guarantee (PC)
- Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)\*
- State Pension (SP)
- 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)