



Social Security Scotland Statistics

Summary statistics for Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance at May 2021

Frequency of publications

The next publication, covering Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance, at August 2021 and Carer's Allowance Supplement, October 2021 eligibility update will be released in February 2022.

Under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics¹ we publish a timetable of statistical releases for the twelve months ahead².

¹ The Code of Practice is found online at: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>

² The forthcoming publication timetable is available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/official-statistics-forthcoming-publications/>

Introduction

This publication provides information on recipients of Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance at May 2021. All tables and charts relating to this publication can be found at: [Social Security Scotland statistics: publications - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/social-security-scotland-statistics/).

This publication does not include an update on recipients of the Carer's Allowance Supplement. This supplement is given to people in Scotland who receive Carer's Allowance on the Carer's Allowance Supplement eligibility dates. These are two dates each year - one in April and one in October - which are set by the Scottish Government. The latest statistics for Carer's Allowance Supplement can be found at [Carer's Allowance Supplement, April eligibility date 2021 and Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance at February 2021: statistics - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/carers-allowance-supplement-statistics/). Carer's Allowance Supplement statistics will be updated for October eligibility date 2021 in February 2022.

The Scotland Act 2016³ gives Scottish Parliament powers over Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance, which had been administered to Scottish claimants by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). In September 2018, Carer's Allowance became the first of these benefits to have executive competency transferred from DWP to Social Security Scotland, the executive agency of Scottish Government which is responsible for delivering the social security benefits for Scotland. From 1 April 2020, executive competency for Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance was also transferred from DWP to Social Security Scotland.

There is a transitional period to allow administration of this benefit to be transferred, during which DWP will continue to administer Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance on Social Security Scotland's behalf.

These statistics are being published as official statistics in accordance with Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and the Code of Practice for Statistics⁴ to ensure they meet high standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

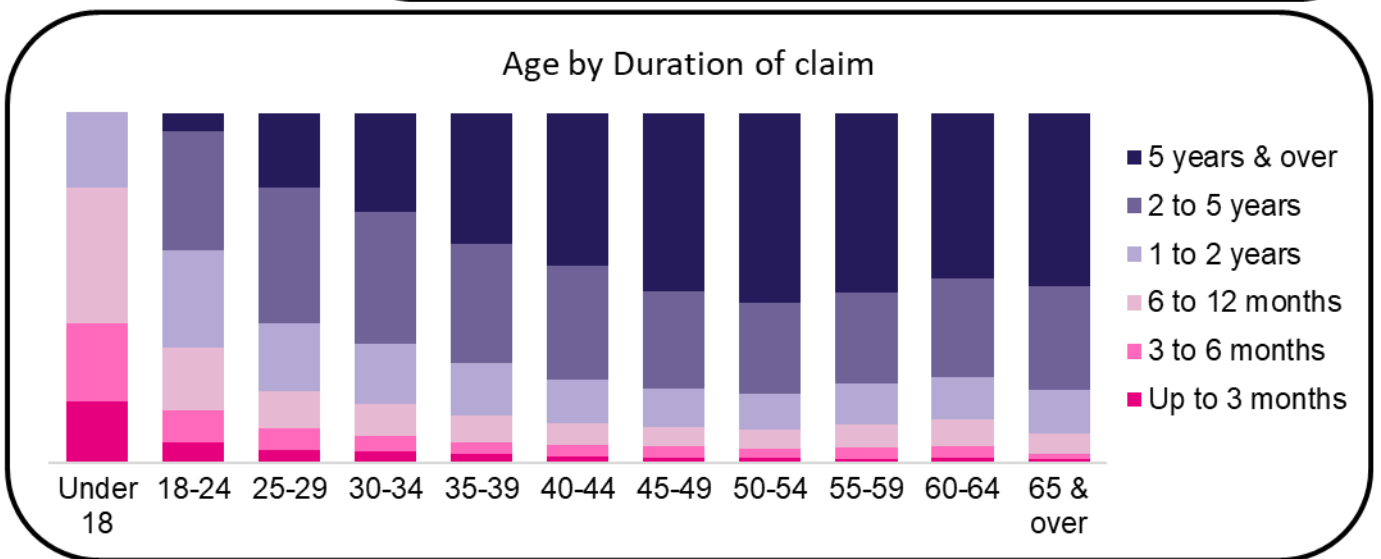
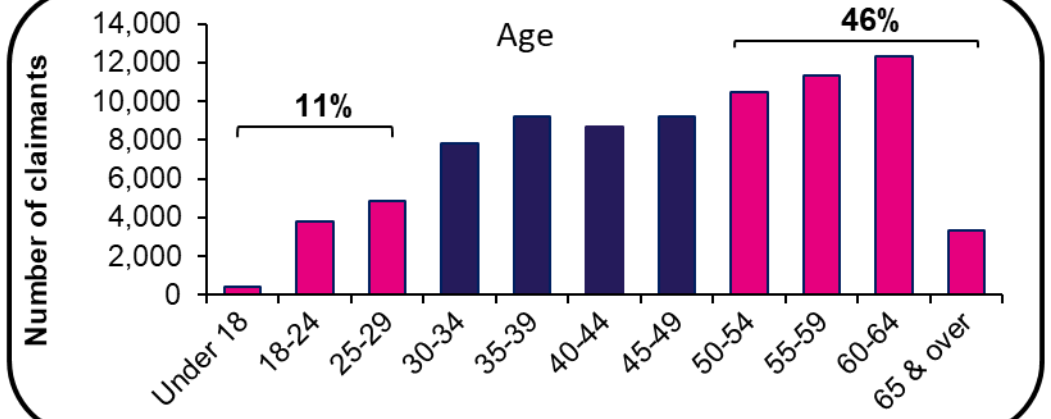
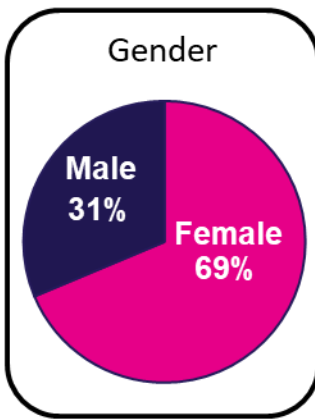
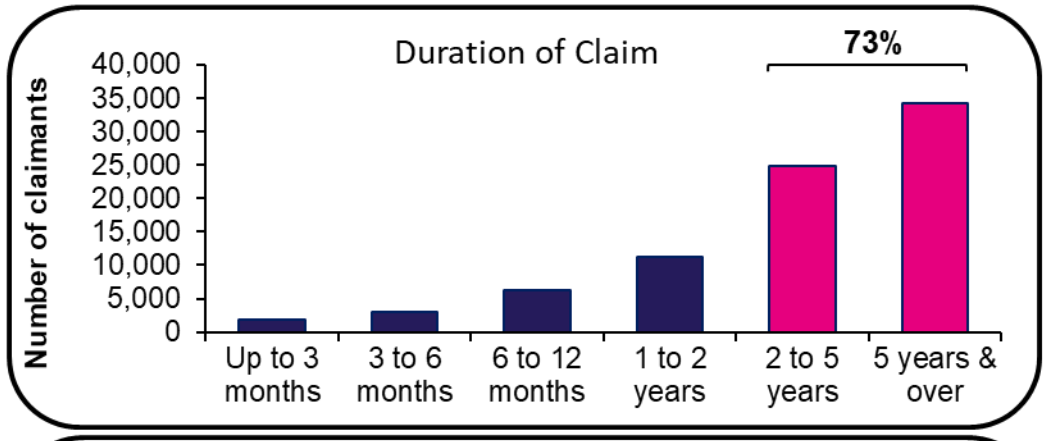
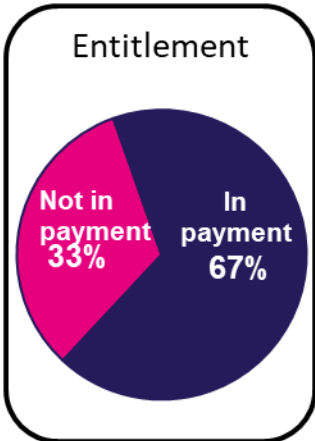
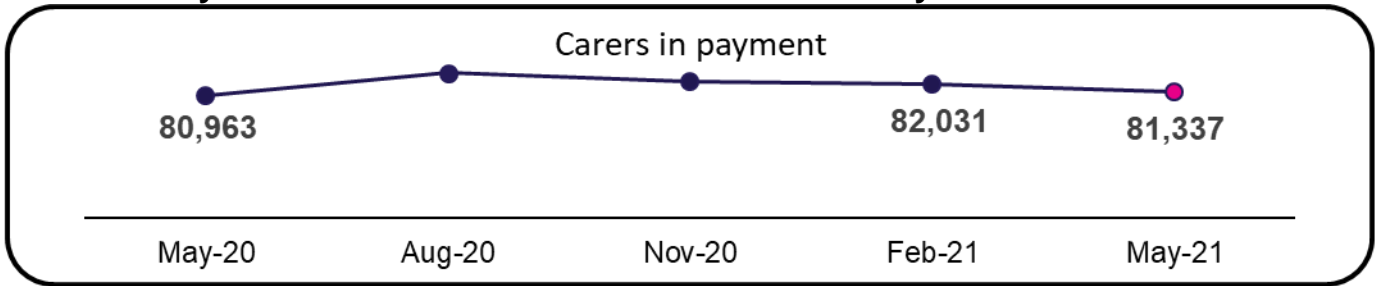
³ The Scotland Act 2016 webpage at <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/scotland.html>

⁴ <https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/the-code/>

Carer's Allowance at May 2021

- In May 2021, there were 81,337 carers in Scotland in receipt of Carer's Allowance. This is an increase of less than one per cent since the previous year (80,963 at May 2020) and one per cent decrease since the last quarter (82,031 at February 2021).
- A further 39,441 carers were entitled to Carer's Allowance but did not receive a payment. The majority of these carers (83 per cent) were 65 or over, so may have been eligible to a State Pension with a value equal to or exceeding their weekly rate of Carer's Allowance (See [Background Note](#)).
- Over two thirds of claimants (73 per cent) have been receiving Carer's Allowance payments for over two years. In total, 42 per cent have been receiving Carer's Allowance payments for over five years.
- Over two thirds of Carer's Allowance claimants (69 per cent) were female and nearly a third (31 per cent) were male.
- Of the Carer's Allowance claimants in receipt of payments, 46 per cent were aged 50 or over, whereas only 11 per cent were under the age of 30.

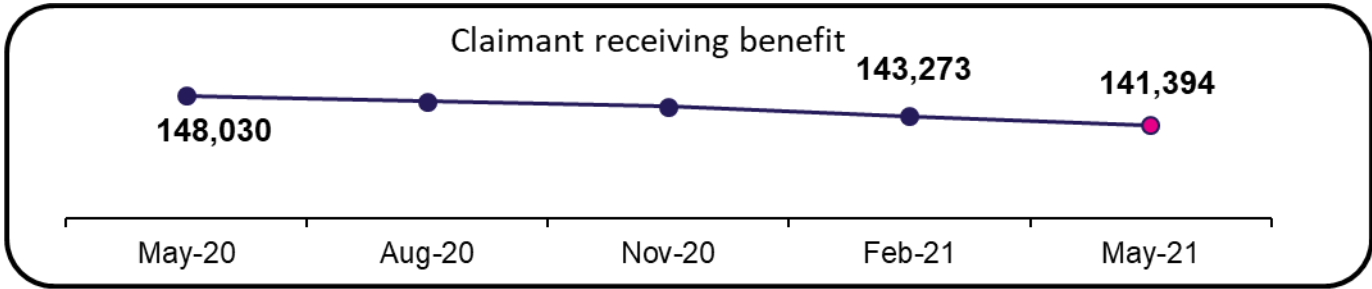
Summary Panel: Carer's Allowance claimants to May 2021



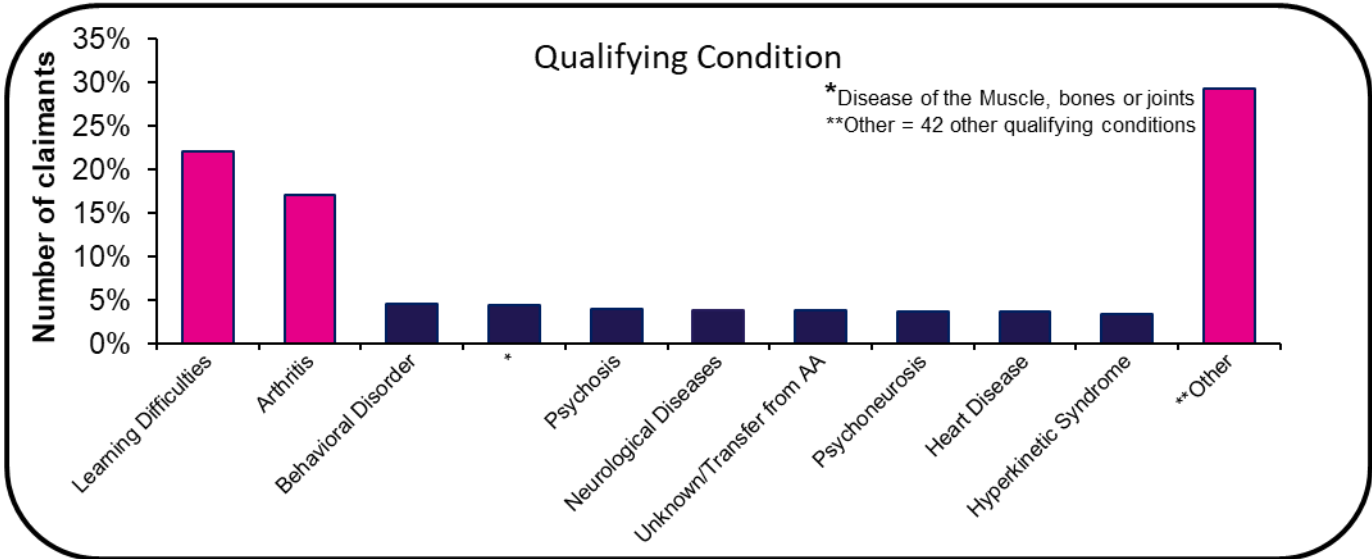
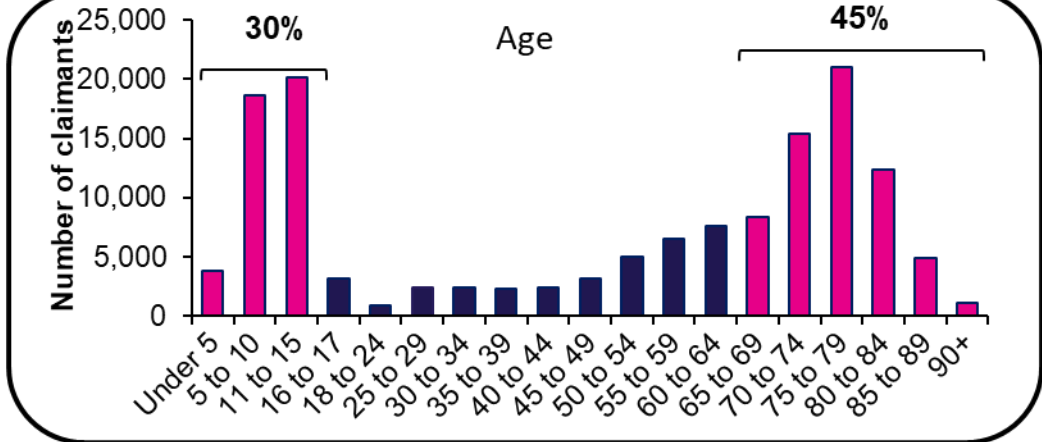
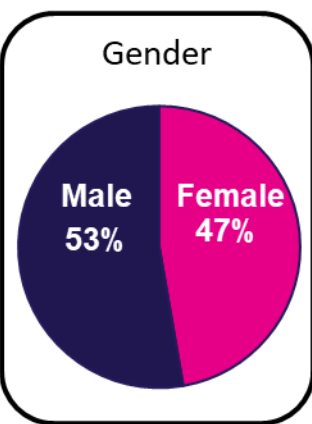
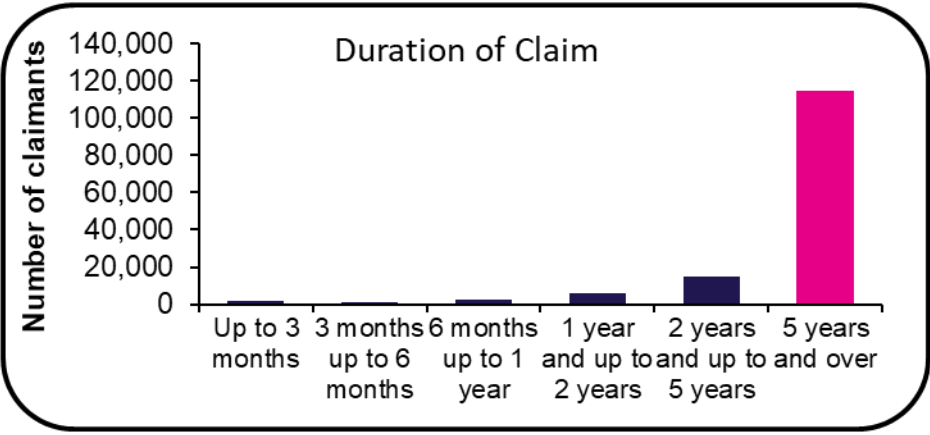
Disability Living Allowance at May 2021

- At May 2021, there were 141,394 people in Scotland in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. This is a decrease of four per cent since the previous year (148,030 at May 2020) and a one per cent decrease since the last quarter (143,273 at February 2021). The benefit is now closed to new applications from those aged 16 and over (See [Background Note](#)).
- Almost three quarters of Disability Living Allowance claimants (73 per cent) received both the mobility and care element. Of those receiving a care award, 46 per cent are on the middle rate, and 33 per cent receive the highest rate. Of those receiving a mobility award, 56 per cent receive the higher rate and 44 per cent receive the lower rate.
- More than nine in ten of the claimants (92 per cent) have been receiving Disability Living Allowance payments for over two years. In total 81 per cent have been receiving Disability Living Allowance payments for over five years. The benefit is now closed to new applications from those aged 16 and over (See [Background Note](#)).
- Nearly half of Disability Living Allowance claimants (47 per cent) were female and just over half (53 per cent) were male.
- Most Disability Living Allowance claimants are aged under 16 (30%) or 65 and over (45%), with relatively few aged 16-64 (25%). This is because Disability Living Allowance is ending for people aged 16 to 64. While under 16s can continue to claim Disability Living Allowance, it is closed for new claims from those over 16. Working aged people aged 16 and over can make new claims for Personal Independence Payment, and those with existing Disability Living Allowance claims are being invited to apply for Personal Independence Payment. People who have reached State Pension age can apply for Attendance Allowance, although those born on or before 8 April 1948 with an existing Disability Living Allowance claim can continue to claim Disability Living Allowance.
- The most common disabling condition was Learning Difficulties (22 per cent), followed by Arthritis (17 per cent).

Summary Panel: Disability Living Allowance claimants to May 2021



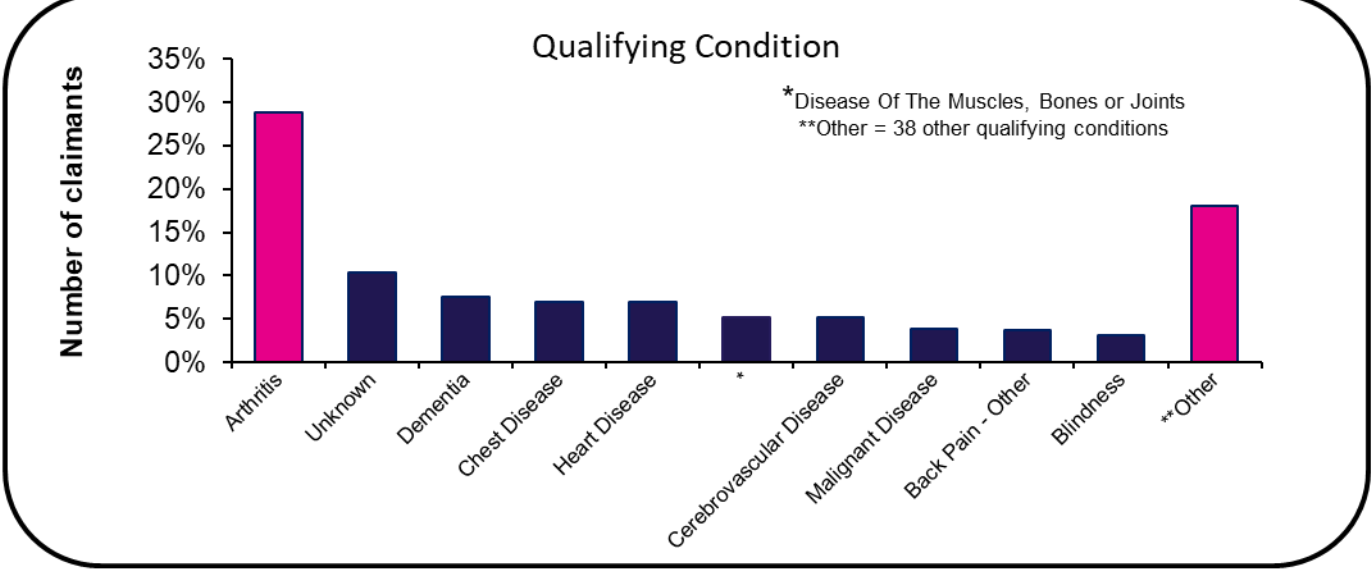
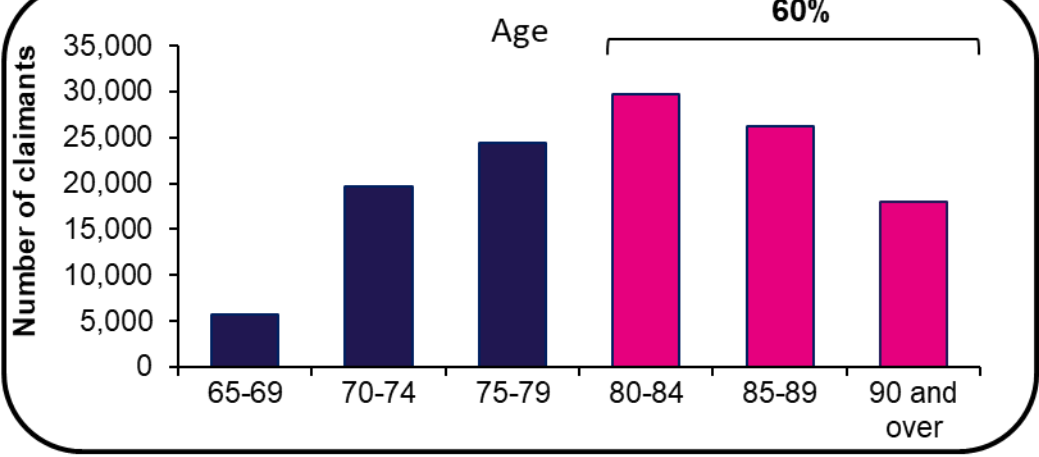
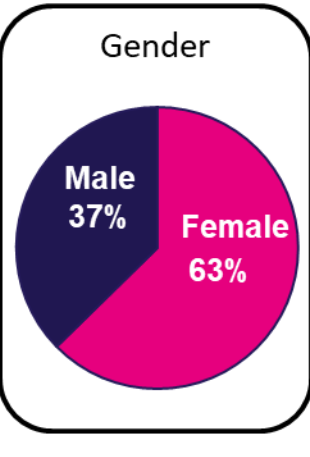
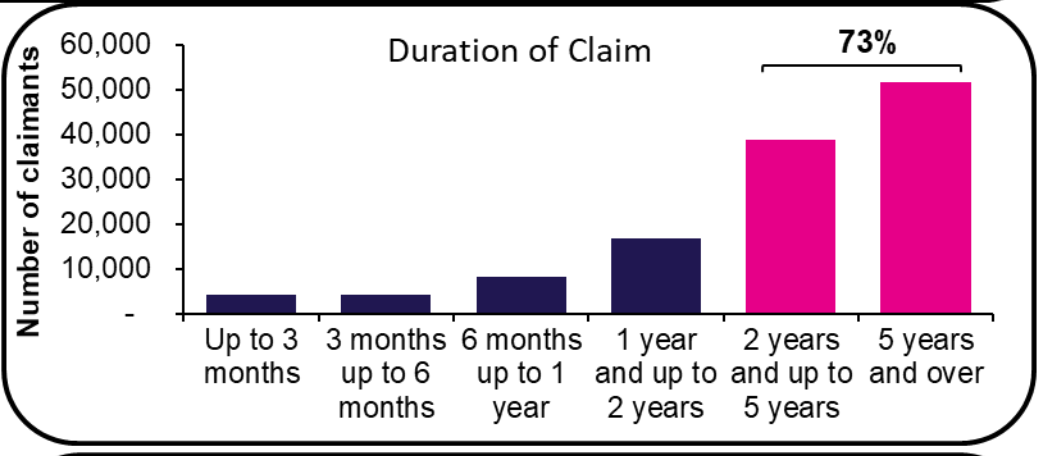
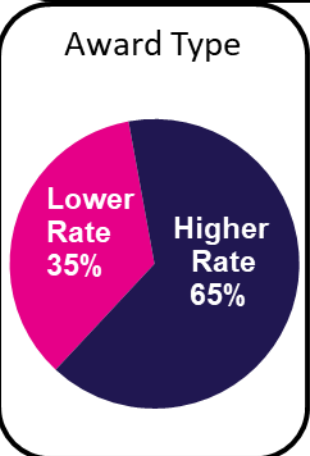
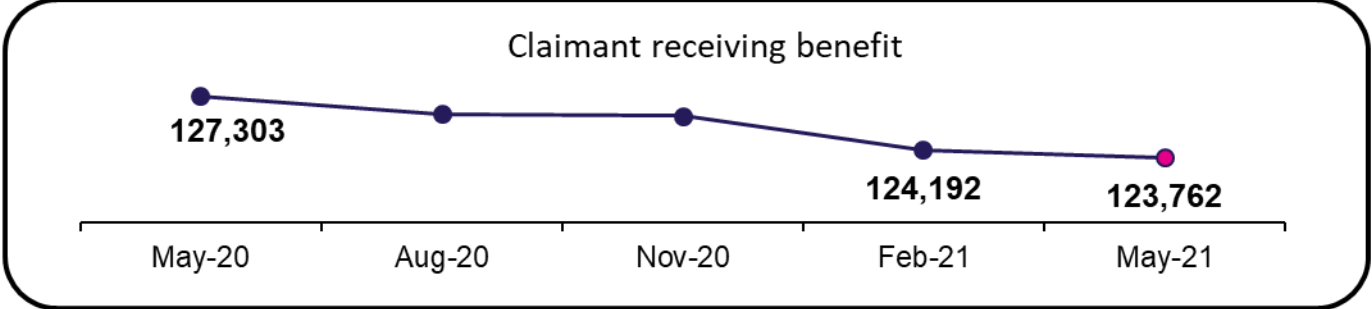
Care Award Rate	Mobility Rate		
	Higher	Low er	Nil
Higher	17%	10%	3%
Middle	13%	20%	7%
Low er	9%	5%	5%
Nil	10%	2%	-



Attendance Allowance at May 2021

- At May 2021, there were 123,762 people in Scotland in receipt of Attendance Allowance. This is a decrease of three per cent since the previous year (127,303 at May 2020) and a less than one per cent decrease since the last quarter (124,192 at February 2021).
- A further 15,763 people were entitled to Attendance Allowance but did not receive a payment. This is likely to be because they are eligible for another benefit with a value equal to or exceeding their weekly rate of Attendance Allowance.
- Nearly two thirds of Attendance Allowance claimants (65 per cent) received the higher rate and just over a third (35 per cent) received the lower rate.
- More than two thirds of claimants (73 per cent) have been receiving Attendance Allowance payments for over two years, with 42 per cent receiving the payment for over five years.
- Nearly two thirds of Attendance Allowance claimants (63 per cent) were female and over a third (37 per cent) were male.
- Of the Attendance Allowance claimants in receipt of payments, 60 per cent were aged 80 or over.
- The most common disabling condition was Arthritis (29 per cent), followed by Unknown (10 per cent).

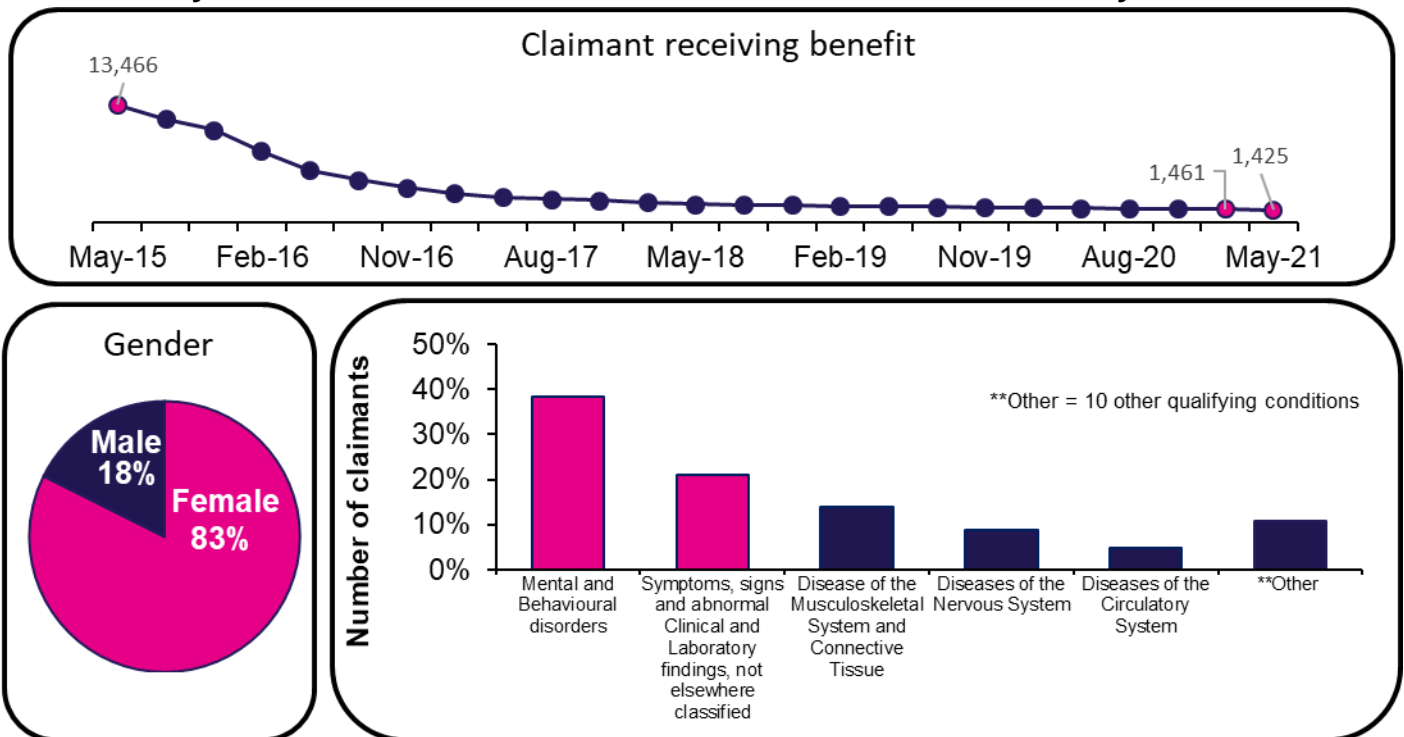
Summary Panel: Attendance Allowance claimants to May 2021



Severe Disablement Allowance at May 2021

- At May 2021, there were 1,425 people in Scotland in receipt of Severe Disablement Allowance. This is a decrease of two per cent since the last quarter (1,461 at February 2021) and over a 89 per cent decrease over six years (13,466 at May 2015).
- Of Severe Disablement Allowance claimants, 83 per cent were female and 18 per cent were male⁵.
- The most common disabling condition is Mental and Behavioural disorders (38 per cent), followed by Symptoms, signs and abnormal Clinical and Laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified (21 per cent).

Summary Panel: Severe Disablement Allowance claimants to May 2021



⁵ Figures do not sum due to rounding

Background to Carer's Allowance

Carer's Allowance is for people who spend at least 35 hours a week providing regular care to someone who has a disability. It was introduced on 5th July 1976. To be eligible for Carer's Allowance:

- The person being cared for must already get one of these benefits:
 - Personal Independence Payment - daily living component
 - Disability Living Allowance - the middle or highest care rate
 - Attendance Allowance
 - Constant Attendance Allowance at or above the normal maximum rate with an Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit
 - Constant Attendance Allowance at the basic (full day) rate with a War Disablement Pension
 - Armed Forces Independence Payment

- The carer must earn no more than £128 a week after tax and expenses. Expenses can include:
 - 50 per cent of the carer's pension contributions
 - some of the costs of caring for the carer's children or the disabled person while you're at work

- And the carer must also:
 - be 16 or over
 - spend at least 35 hours a week caring for someone
 - have been in England, Scotland or Wales for at least two of the last three years (this does not apply if you're a refugee or have humanitarian protection status)
 - normally live in England, Scotland or Wales, or live abroad as a member of the armed forces
 - not be in full-time education
 - not be studying for 21 hours a week or more
 - not be subject to [immigration control](#)

Some carers might still be eligible if they are moving to or already living in another [EEA country or Switzerland](#).

Some carers are entitled to receive Carer's Allowance because they satisfy the conditions listed above, but they do not actually receive a payment. This may occur as a temporary suspension of the Carer's Allowance payments, if the claimant is in hospital. Otherwise, this is because the claimant receives another benefit (e.g. Incapacity Benefit for people of working age, or State Pension for people of State Pension age) which equals or exceeds their weekly rate of Carer's Allowance.

Where the overlapping benefit paid is less than the weekly rate of Carer's Allowance, only the amount of Carer's Allowance which exceeds the amount of the overlapping benefit is paid. Carers who are on low income and entitled to Carer's

Allowance (whether in payment or not) may receive extra money with their Income Support/Jobseeker's Allowance/ Pension Credit/Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit.

During the outbreak of coronavirus, some Carer's Allowance rules were relaxed. To allow for self isolating on the part of the carer or cared for person, care did not need to take place in the physical presence of the cared for person as it usually does. Where caring did not take place due to coronavirus, this will not count as a break in care, and Carer's Allowance continued to be paid. These rules reverted to normal from 1 September 2021.

Background to the Carer's Allowance Supplement

Carer's Allowance Supplement is an extra payment for people in Scotland who get Carer's Allowance on a particular date. During the transitional period, when DWP will continue to administer Carer's Allowance on Social Security Scotland's behalf, Scottish recipients of Carer's Allowance will be eligible to receive Carer's Allowance Supplement.

The payment was initially set at a level which would raise Carer's Allowance to the equivalent of the current rate of Jobseeker's Allowance for 25 and over, however following uprating the combined payment now exceeds the rate of Jobseeker's Allowance for 2019/20.

Carer's Allowance Supplements are paid twice a year, based on eligibility at specific eligibility dates in April and October.

Eligibility date	Month payments made	Payment amount
16 April 2018	September 2018	£221.00
15 October 2018	December 2018	
15 April 2019	June 2019	£226.20
14 October 2019	December 2019	
13 April 2020*	June 2020*	£460.20*
12 October 2020	December 2020	£230.10

12 April 2021	June 2021	£231.40
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*The Scottish Government made an extra Carer's Allowance Supplement payment of £230.10 in June 2020. This is a one-off payment to provide some more support for carers during coronavirus. Carers receiving a payment for the 13 April 2020 eligibility date will get a total payment of £460.20, made up of £230.10 standard Carer's Allowance Supplement, plus £230.10 Coronavirus Carer's Allowance Supplement. If a Carer's Allowance claim is backdated to include 13 April 2020 they will receive the extra payment. In the statistics this is counted as one payment with a value of £460.20.

To be eligible for Carer's Allowance Supplement the person you care for does not have to live in Scotland, but you must:

- live in Scotland on the eligibility date;
- have a genuine and sufficient link to Scotland but live outside the United Kingdom in the [European Economic Area](#), Switzerland or Gibraltar on the eligibility date;
- be getting Carer's Allowance payments on the eligibility date.

It is possible for carers to have a temporary break in Carer's Allowance Supplement payments due to a temporary suspension of Carer's Allowance, as described above.

Background to Disability Living Allowance

Disability Living Allowance is for people who became disabled before the age of 65 and who have extra care or mobility needs (difficulty getting around).

It is made up of two components. A person might be eligible for one or both components. The rates as of the 1st April 2021 for each are:

Care component rate	Weekly amount	Level of help needed
Lower Rate	£23.70	Help for some of the day
Middle Rate	£60.00	Frequent help or constant supervision during the day, supervision at night or someone to help while they're on dialysis
Higher Rate	£89.60	Help or supervision throughout both day and night, or they're terminally ill

Mobility component	Weekly amount	Level of help needed
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rate		
Lower Rate	£23.70	They can walk but need help and or supervision when outdoors
Higher Rate	£62.55	They cannot walk, can only walk a short distance without severe discomfort, could become very ill if they try to walk or they're blind, severely sight impaired

Children under 16 years of age qualify for the care component or the lower rate mobility component only if their needs are substantially in excess of those of a child of the same age in normal health. They cannot qualify for the lower rate care component through the "cooking test" route - a method of assessing an adult's need to care by determining if they could prepare and cook a meal for one person given the raw ingredients. Children under 3 years of age cannot qualify for the higher-rate mobility component; children under 5 years of age cannot qualify for the lower-rate mobility component.

People who are terminally ill (i.e. have a progressive disease from which death can reasonably be expected within 6 months) automatically qualify for the higher rate care component. They can also qualify for the mobility component if they satisfy the normal rules.

Disability Living Allowance can be awarded for a fixed or an indefinite period. People can continue to receive the allowance after reaching age 65 if they continue to satisfy the entitlement conditions.

From 8 April 2013, the Department for Work and Pensions started to replace Disability Living Allowance for working age people with Personal Independence Payment for new claims. People can still apply for Disability Living Allowance if they are aged under 16.

From 28 October 2013, the Department for Work and Pensions has been inviting Disability Living Allowance working age recipients to claim Personal Independence Payment if:

- the department received information about a change in care or mobility needs which meant their claim had to be renewed;
- the claimant's fixed term award was due to expire;
- children turned 16 years old (unless they have been awarded Disability Living Allowance under the special rules for terminally ill people);
- or the claimant chose to claim Personal Independence Payment instead of Disability Living Allowance.

From July 2015, the remaining Disability Living Allowance working age recipients started to be invited to claim Personal Independence Payment. However, since 1 April 2020, DWP have stopped proactively sending these invites to Disability Living Allowance working age recipients who live in Scotland.

Background to Attendance Allowance

Attendance Allowance is for people aged 65 or over with an illness or disability that is severe enough that they need someone to help look after them, for example, help with washing, dressing or eating, during the day or overnight.

To be eligible for Attendance Allowance the person must have reached [State Pension age](#) and have:

- a physical disability, a mental disability, or both
- a disability that is severe enough to need help caring for themselves or someone to supervise them, for their own or someone else's safety
- have needed help for at least 6 months (unless they are terminally ill)

The person must also:

- be in Great Britain when they claim
- have been in Great Britain for at least 2 of the last 3 years (this does not apply to refugees or people who have humanitarian protection status)
- be [habitually resident](#) in the UK, Ireland, Isle of Man or the Channel Islands
- not be subject to [immigration control](#)

If a person is terminally ill, i.e. they are not expected to live for more than 6 months, there are 'special rules':

- there's no qualifying period for how long they have had the illness
- if eligible, they will automatically get the higher rate of Attendance Allowance

Some people might still be eligible if they are moving to or already living in another [EEA country or Switzerland](#).

Attendance Allowance is paid weekly at 2 different rates – depending on the level of help needed. The rates as of the 1st April 2021 for each are:

Rate	Weekly amount	Level of help you need
Lower Rate	£60.00	Frequent help or constant supervision during the day, or supervision at night
Higher Rate	£89.60	Help or supervision throughout both day and night, or they're terminally ill

A person cannot get Attendance Allowance if they already get [Disability Living Allowance \(DLA\)](#) or [Personal Independence Payment \(PIP\)](#).

Background to Severe Disablement Allowance

Severe Disablement Allowance is for people below the state pension age who cannot work for 28 weeks in a row because of illness or disability.

It was closed to new entrants and replaced by Incapacity Benefit in April 2001, which is now replaced by Employment and Support Allowance. Recipients are now being asked to undertake a re-assessment of their claim by:

- Completing a questionnaire and returning it by the deadline
- Potentially attending a face-to-face Work Capability Assessment

If the re-assessment shows they cannot work, they will be transferred automatically onto [ESA](#). They will continue to get Severe Disablement Allowance until that date.

A person's Severe Disablement Allowance is not usually affected if they:

- do volunteer work
- work for less than 16 hours a week on average and earn up to £140 a week
- work and earn up to £140 a week, if the work is done as part of a treatment programme or is supervised by someone from a local council or voluntary organisation
- work and earn up to £140 a week and are exempt from personal capability assessment

About the data

How Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance data is collected

DWP holds information on those in payment of Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance, and Carer's Allowance, and publish statistics as part of the quarterly DWP benefits statistics series at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dwp-statistical-summaries>.

DWP produce summary tables for Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance in Scotland based on the data that are published in these quarterly statistical summaries, and provide these to Scottish Government for publication.

Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance quality

Information about the methodology used to produce Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance statistics and the quality of the statistics is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dwp-statistical-summary-policies-and-statements>.

Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance are subject to DWP's rounding techniques for disclosure control.

Further breakdowns of Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance data

The data for Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance in Scotland is available in more detail on Stat-Xplore, where you can access data at lower geographies e.g. Local Authority, Census Output Area, Scottish and Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies:

<https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/login.xhtml>.

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

are available in more detail through statistics.gov.scot

are available via an alternative route. Summary tables are available at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/carers-allowance-at-november-2019-summary-statistics>

may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact MI@socialsecurity.gov.scot for further information.

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