

Statistics Release

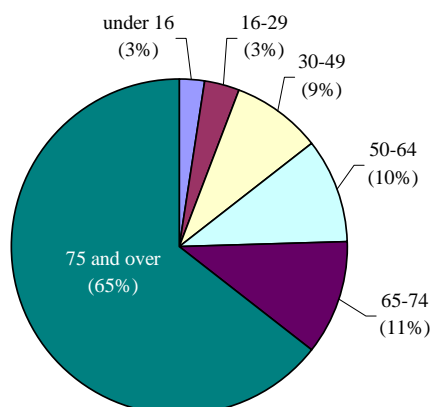
Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons, Scotland 2007

Introduction

The purpose of this Statistics Release is to present national figures on visually impaired persons registered with Local Authorities in Scotland. All figures relate to the 31st March 2007 and are provisional and, as such, may be subject to change. The final figures will be published in future publications.

Registration with Local Authorities for blind and partially sighted persons is not compulsory. Research studies suggest that between a quarter and a third of visually impaired people are in fact registered with Local Authorities (see background note for more details).

Chart 1: Registered Visually Impaired Persons by Age Group, 2007



Main points

Information collected on visually impaired persons show that: -

- In 2007, the number of people registered as blind or partially sighted was estimated to be 35,400.
- There were 3,263 cases registered during the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, down 6.5 per cent on 2006.
- The majority, 58 per cent, of those on the register were blind, 42 per cent were partially sighted.
- 38 per cent of those on the register were male and 62 per cent were female.
- Over three-quarters (76%) of those registered were over the age of 65.
- 10,696 persons (30 per cent) of those registered as visually impaired had additional disabilities. Of these, roughly a quarter were deaf.

Section 1: Blind Persons

There were 20,365 registered blind persons in 2007. The number registered blind has shown a drop of 7 per cent over the last year. This continues the trend of small, but steady falls since 2000. (see background note for more details).

The number of new cases registered during the year was 1,418. This is down 8 per cent on the previous year.

In 2007, there were 4 people registered blind for every 1,000 people in the population of Scotland (see table 1a).

Table 1a: Number of Registered Blind Persons and New Registrations during the Year 1998-2007

Year ¹	New Cases	Total	Registered per 1000 Pop'n
2007	1,418	20,365	4.0
2006	1,537	21,785	4.3
2005	1,682	23,248	4.6
2004	1,566	23,172	4.6
2003	1,743	23,557	4.7
2002	1,713	23,451	4.6
2001	1,766	24,748	4.9
2000	1,903	24,839	4.9
1999	1,714	24,514	4.8
1998	1,796	24,096	4.7

¹ Care should be taken when commenting on trends as the fall in numbers between 2000 and 2002 is explained in part by improvements in reporting procedures by some local authorities.

Source: Registration of Blind and Partially Sighted Persons Return Form SWB

Just over three-quarters of registered blind persons are over the age of 65, with approximately two-thirds being over 75. There are significantly more women registered blind (61 per cent) than men (39 per cent).

Almost 45 per cent of all registered blind people are women aged 75 and over (see table 1b). This is also reflected in the new registrations where just over 46 per cent of the new registered cases are women aged 75 and over.

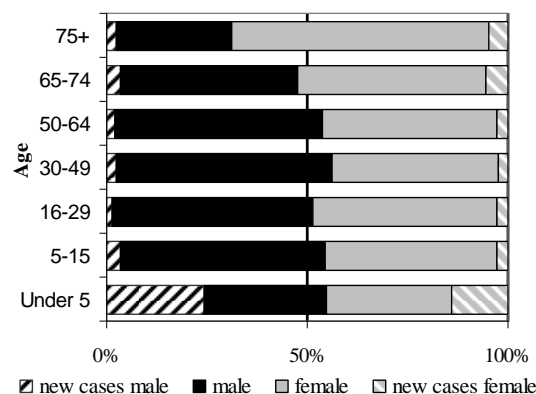
Excluding the '75 and over' age group there is a much more even split between the sexes. (See Table 1b & Chart 1b).

Table 1b: Number of Registered Blind Persons and New Registrations by Age and Gender, 2007

AGE	New Cases		Total Cases		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Under 5 years	21	12	47	39	86
5-15	13	10	206	172	378
16-29	9	18	318	303	621
30-49	44	42	1,036	813	1,849
50-64	42	58	1,111	959	2,070
65-74	73	116	1,012	1,110	2,122
75 and over	304	656	4,130	9,109	13,239
All ages-Total	506	912	7,860	12,505	20,365

Source: Registration of Blind and Partially Sighted Persons Return Form SWB

Chart 1b: Number of Registered Blind Persons and New Registrations by Age and Gender, 2007



An estimated 6,490 (32 per cent) of all registered blind persons have additional disabilities, nearly a quarter of which are deaf.

Nearly 70 per cent of those with additional disabilities were over the age of 65 (see Table 1c).

The number of registered blind people per 1,000 population is 4.0 for the whole of

Scotland. This varies from 1.7 in Aberdeenshire to 8.0 in the City of Glasgow. A more detailed breakdown showing the rate per 1,000 population by age and sex for each Local Authority is available in Annex A on page 9.

Table 1c: Number of Registered Blind Persons with Additional Disabilities by Age, 2007

Additional Disability	AGE				Total
	Under 5	5-15	16-64	65 and over	
Deaf	2	10	279	1,267	1,558
Physically Disabled	7	53	702	2,198	2,960
Learning Difficulties	1	16	331	69	417
Mental Health Problems	2	5	216	578	801
Multiple Disabilities	17	68	242	427	754
Total	29	152	1,770	4,539	6,490

Source: Registration of Blind and Partially Sighted Persons Return Form SWB

Section 2: Partially Sighted Persons

There were an estimated 15,035 registered partially sighted persons in 2007. This is slightly down on last year (3.4%).

The number of people registered as partially sighted has been steadily rising over the last 9 years to 2006 with a slight dip in numbers in 2007.

The number of new cases registered during the year was 1,845. This is down 5.5 per cent on the previous year. The number of people registered partially sighted per 1,000 population is 2.9 for this year. This has remained at around the same level since 2003. (see Table 2a).

Table 2a: Number of Registered Partially Sighted Persons and New Registrations during the years 1998-2007

Year ¹	New Cases	Total	Registered per 1000 Pop'n
2007	1,845	15,035	2.9
2006	1,953	15,569	3.0
2005	1,759	15,339	3.0
2004	1,855	14,770	2.9
2003	1,748	14,443	2.9
2002	2,061	13,972	2.8
2001	1,856	13,676	2.7
2000	1,776	13,287	2.6
1999	1,672	12,536	2.5
1998	1,658	11,870	2.3

¹ Care should be taken when commenting on trends as the fall in numbers since 2000 is explained in part by improvements in reporting procedures by some local authorities.

Source: Registration of Blind and Partially Sighted Persons Return Form SWB

Data on registered partially sighted individuals shows a similar picture to that of registered blind individuals. Approximately 76 per cent of registered partially sighted persons are over the age of 65, with approximately two-thirds (64%) being aged 75 or over. There are significantly more women registered as partially sighted (63 per cent) than men (37 per cent). Again, just under half (45%) of all registered partially sighted people are women aged 75 and over (see table 2b).

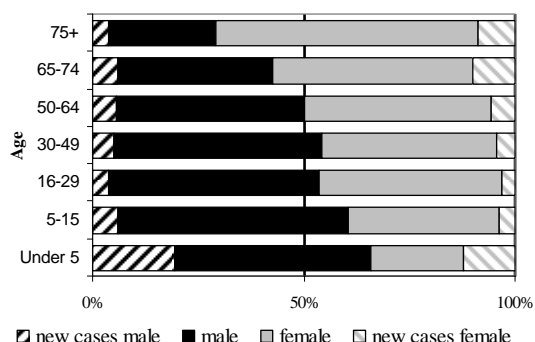
This large proportion of partially sighted women aged 75 or over is also mirrored in the new registrations where 46 per cent of the new registered cases are women aged 75 and over. Excluding the '75 and over' age group there is a much more even split between the sexes (see Table 2b & Chart 2b).

Table 2b: Number of Registered Partially Sighted Persons and New Registrations by Age and Gender, 2007

AGE	New Cases		Total Cases		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Under 5 years	8	5	27	14	41
5-15	25	16	248	161	409
16-29	21	18	309	268	577
30-49	59	51	649	546	1,195
50-64	83	83	725	719	1,444
65-74	102	177	747	1,004	1,751
75 and over	354	843	2,807	6,811	9,618
All ages-Total	652	1,193	5,512	9,523	15,035

Source: Registration of Blind and Partially Sighted Persons Return Form SWB

Chart 2b: Percentage of Registered Partially Sighted Persons and New Registrations by Age and Gender, 2007



The number of people registered partially sighted per 1,000 population is 2.9 for the whole of Scotland. This varies from 1.1 in Orkney to 4.6 in Glasgow City. A more detailed breakdown showing the rate per 1,000 population by age and sex for each Local Authority is available in Annex A on page 9.

An estimated 4,206 (28 per cent) of all registered partially sighted persons have additional disabilities, almost three-quarters (73%) of which are aged 65 and over. Physical disabilities account for over half (52 per cent) and nearly a quarter (23 per cent) are deaf (see Table 2c).

Table 2c: Number of Registered Partially Sighted Persons with Additional Disabilities by Age, 2007

Additional Disability	AGE				Total
	Under 5	5-15	16-64	65 and over	
Deaf	0	9	105	841	955
Physically Disabled	2	51	500	1,648	2,201
Learning Difficulties	1	18	149	34	202
Mental Health Problems	0	2	97	225	324
Multiple Disabilities	11	30	145	338	524
Total	14	110	996	3,086	4,206

Source: Registration of Blind and Partially Sighted Persons Return Form SWB

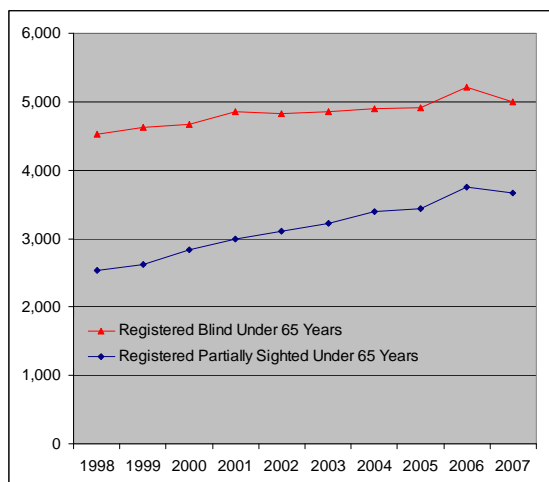


Section 3: Visually Impaired Under 65-year-olds

Time series data showing the number of visually impaired people under the age of 65 over the last 10 years is shown in the chart below.

It shows a gradual rise in the number of registered blind persons up until 2001 before remaining relatively constant at between 4,850 and 5,218 from 2001 to 2007. Registered partially sighted persons have increased year on year throughout the initial 9-year period, but then dropped back in 2007.

Chart 3: Time Series of Registered Blind and Registered Partially Sighted Persons Aged 65 and Under, 1998-2007



Overall the number of registered visually impaired under 65-year-olds has decreased by 3 per cent on last year. The ratio per 1,000 population is at around 2.0 after rising gradually to the level of the past few years (see Table 3a). Data on under 65's by local authority and sex is shown in Annex A on page 6.

Table 3a: Number of Registered Visually Impaired Under 65-year-olds, 1998 - 2007

Year	No. of Registered Visually Impaired under 65 year olds ¹	Registered under 65's per 1,000 Pop'n of under 65's
2007	8,670	2.0
2006	8,970	2.1
2005	8,354	2.0
2004	8,285	2.0
2003	8,068	1.9
2002	7,928	1.9
2001	7,836	1.8
2000	7,496	1.8
1999	7,250	1.7
1998	7,054	1.6

¹ Data for under 65-year-olds should be more reliable than older age groups due to lower mortality rates.

Source: Registration of Blind and Partially Sighted Persons Return Form SWB

Background Information:

Data was collected on persons registered with local authorities as at 31 March 2007.

The information is derived from returns made to the Scottish Executive by Scottish local authorities. The return asks for the number of blind and partially sighted persons by age, sex and additional disabilities. It does not include persons who may meet the criteria for being blind or partially sighted but have not registered with their local authority.

The Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 gives local authorities the power to maintain a register of people who are blind or partially sighted. However registration is voluntary and while registration provides access to a number of benefits and concessions there remain a large number of people who meet the criteria but are not registered. Research in 1991¹, undertaken at a UK level, indicated that the number of people on registers is some 23 per cent of those eligible. In 2001 they estimated it to be under a third.

'Think dual sensory' published in 1997 by the Department of Health suggested that some 2,000 people in Scotland could have some degree of deafblindness. Our latest figures show that there are 1,558 people registered as deafblind in Scotland and a further 955 people registered as partially sighted and deaf.. This suggests that people are more likely to register if they have multiple disabilities.

Additionally, there are known problems with previous years' data where people have not been removed from the register of blind and partially sighted persons. Many local authorities have in recent years

improved their registers by comparing with the register of deaths and this may in part explain the decrease in the number of registered blind persons since 2000.

Returns were received from all local authorities:

Glasgow have substantially revised their figures in recent years following a move to a new management information system. This has resulted in improvements to data quality for 2006 and 2007 but care should be taken when comparing 2005 and 2006 figures as many of the changes seen are largely due to changes in the Glasgow figures.

For example, Glasgow have improved their data collection on additional disabilities resulting in an increase in the overall number of visually impaired people with additional disabilities.

Fife were unable to provide complete information on additional disabilities. Care should therefore be taken when interpreting figures as a small amount of data has been estimated.

In 2006, East Dunbartonshire undertook a data cleaning exercise which resulted in significant decreases in the figures published last year. For 2007, the number of registered blind and partially sighted in East Dunbartonshire have increased and their 2006 figures have been adjusted to bring them in line with 2005 and 2007 levels.

2004 based population projections from GRO(S) have been used to calculate rates per 1000 population in this Statistics Release.

¹ Blind and Partially Sighted Adults in Britain: The RNIB Survey, Volume 1, HMSO, 1991

Further Information

Further details and analysis of the data presented in this Statistics Release are available on request from the address given below. The Statistics Release is available in large print and on the Internet by accessing the Scottish Executive web site (www.scotland.gov.uk).

Community Care Statistics
Room 3WR
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Contact: Steven Gillespie
Tel: 0131 244 3777
E-mail: SWStat@scotland.gov.uk

This statistics release was published on 28
November 2007



Annex A:

Registered Blind by Local Authority, 2007

Local Authority	Under 65 years		Over 65 years		Total	Registered Blind per 1,000 Pop'n
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Aberdeen City	81	95	95	226	497	2.5
Aberdeenshire	63	51	86	196	396	1.7
Angus	36	35	68	165	304	2.8
Argyll & Bute	39	24	122	256	441	4.8
Clackmannanshire	16	12	32	68	128	2.6
Dumfries & Galloway	57	45	100	226	428	2.9
Dundee City	97	63	125	227	512	3.7
East Ayrshire	63	51	106	188	408	3.4
East Dunbartonshire	45	51	84	146	326	3.1
East Lothian	41	32	72	134	279	3.0
East Renfrewshire	31	24	120	227	402	4.5
Edinburgh City	201	174	357	725	1,457	3.1
Eilean Siar	11	12	21	48	92	3.5
Falkirk	72	58	113	218	461	3.1
Fife	160	134	213	472	979	2.7
Glasgow City	500	438	1,223	2,447	4,608	8.0
Highland	127	117	176	437	857	4.0
Inverclyde	42	39	60	129	270	3.3
Midlothian	46	16	60	92	214	2.7
Moray	37	22	83	155	297	3.4
North Ayrshire	98	69	213	397	777	5.7
North Lanarkshire	245	230	558	1004	2,037	6.3
Orkney Islands	13	3	14	29	59	3.0
Perth & Kinross	31	37	86	235	389	2.8
Renfrewshire	101	71	117	237	526	3.1
Scottish Borders	37	28	95	178	338	3.0
Shetland Islands	6	3	7	23	39	1.8
South Ayrshire	55	42	148	321	566	5.0
South Lanarkshire	207	176	342	558	1,283	4.1
Stirling	41	35	77	147	300	3.5
West Dunbartonshire	58	46	70	140	314	3.5
West Lothian	61	53	99	168	381	2.3
Scotland	2,718	2,286	5,142	10,219	20,365	4.0

Source: Registration of Blind and Partially Sighted Persons Return Form SWB

Annex A:

Registered Partially Sighted by Local Authority, 2007

Local Authority	Under 65 years		Over 65 years		Total	Registered per 1,000 Pop'n
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Aberdeen City	72	60	92	239	463	2.3
Aberdeenshire	54	49	104	237	444	1.9
Angus	30	25	49	150	254	2.3
Argyll & Bute	33	26	84	228	371	4.1
Clackmannanshire	9	11	26	66	112	2.3
Dumfries & Galloway	67	59	158	300	584	3.9
Dundee City	60	45	92	236	433	3.1
East Ayrshire	43	26	62	157	288	2.4
East Dunbartonshire	35	22	47	85	189	1.8
East Lothian	33	29	83	165	310	3.3
East Renfrewshire	15	22	64	154	255	2.8
Edinburgh City	180	147	335	770	1,432	3.1
Eilean Siar	5	4	8	28	45	1.7
Falkirk	39	48	88	203	378	2.5
Fife	122	117	190	430	859	2.4
Glasgow City	345	274	635	1,365	2,619	4.6
Highland	72	70	97	274	513	2.4
Inverclyde	47	28	73	142	290	3.6
Midlothian	32	27	64	127	250	3.2
Moray	21	23	22	54	120	1.4
North Ayrshire	50	51	123	247	471	3.5
North Lanarkshire	123	107	239	379	848	2.6
Orkney Islands	5	6	3	8	22	1.1
Perth & Kinross	47	44	102	233	426	3.0
Renfrewshire	70	83	137	300	590	3.5
Scottish Borders	37	33	99	219	388	3.5
Shetland Islands	5	5	6	16	32	1.5
South Ayrshire	39	33	97	208	377	3.4
South Lanarkshire	122	110	189	373	794	2.6
Stirling	21	26	54	138	239	2.8
West Dunbartonshire	53	29	57	131	270	3.0
West Lothian	72	69	75	153	369	2.2
Scotland	1,958	1,708	3,554	7,815	15,035	2.9

Source: Registration of Blind and Partially Sighted Persons Return Form SWB

Annex A:

Registered Visually Impaired by Local Authority, 2007

Local Authority	Under 65 years		Over 65 years		Total	Registered per 1,000 Pop'n
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Aberdeen City	153	155	187	465	960	4.8
Aberdeenshire	117	100	190	433	840	3.5
Angus	66	60	117	315	558	5.1
Argyll & Bute	72	50	206	484	812	8.8
Clackmannanshire	25	23	58	134	240	4.9
Dumfries & Galloway	124	104	258	526	1,012	6.8
Dundee City	157	108	217	463	945	6.8
East Ayrshire	106	77	168	345	696	5.8
East Dunbartonshire	80	73	131	231	515	4.9
East Lothian	74	61	155	299	589	6.3
East Renfrewshire	46	46	184	381	657	7.3
Edinburgh City	381	321	692	1,495	2,889	6.2
Eilean Siar	16	16	29	76	137	5.2
Falkirk	111	106	201	421	839	5.6
Fife	282	251	403	902	1,838	5.1
Glasgow City	845	712	1,858	3,812	7,227	12.6
Highland	199	187	273	711	1,370	6.4
Inverclyde	89	67	133	271	560	6.9
Midlothian	78	43	124	219	464	5.8
Moray	58	45	105	209	417	4.8
North Ayrshire	148	120	336	644	1,248	9.2
North Lanarkshire	368	337	797	1,383	2,885	8.9
Orkney Islands	18	9	17	37	81	4.1
Perth & Kinross	78	81	188	468	815	5.8
Renfrewshire	171	154	254	537	1,116	6.5
Scottish Borders	74	61	194	397	726	6.6
Shetland Islands	11	8	13	39	71	3.2
South Ayrshire	94	75	245	529	943	8.4
South Lanarkshire	329	286	531	931	2,077	6.7
Stirling	62	61	131	285	539	6.2
West Dunbartonshire	111	75	127	271	584	6.4
West Lothian	133	122	174	321	750	4.5
Scotland	4,676	3,994	8,696	18,034	35,400	6.9

Source: Registration of Blind and Partially Sighted Persons Return Form SWB

Correspondence and enquiries

<p>Enquiries on Direct Payments, Scotland 2007 should be addressed to:</p> <p>Steven Gillespie Health Analytical Services Health Finance Directorate Basement Rear, St Andrews House Edinburgh EH1 3DG Telephone: 0131 244 3777; Fax: 0131 244 2371 e-mail: Steven.gillespie@scotland.gsi.gov.uk</p>	<p>General enquiries on Scottish Government statistics can be addressed to:</p> <p>Ryan Stewart Office of the Chief Statistician Scottish Government 3 Floor West Rear, St Andrews House EDINBURGH EH1 3DG Telephone: (0131) 244 0442; Fax: (0131) 244 2223 e-mail: statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk</p>
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Further information on the General Register Office for Scotland is available on the website www.gro-scotland.gov.uk

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9780755965755	Adults with learning disabilities – implementation of “The Same as You”	27 March 2007	-
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