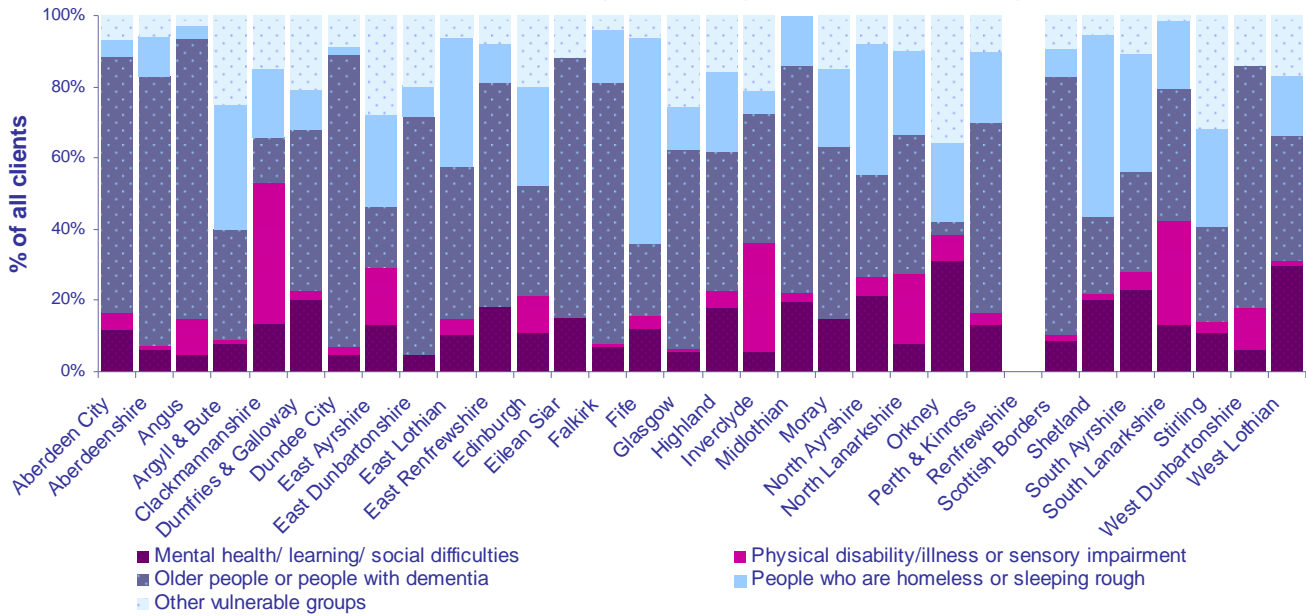
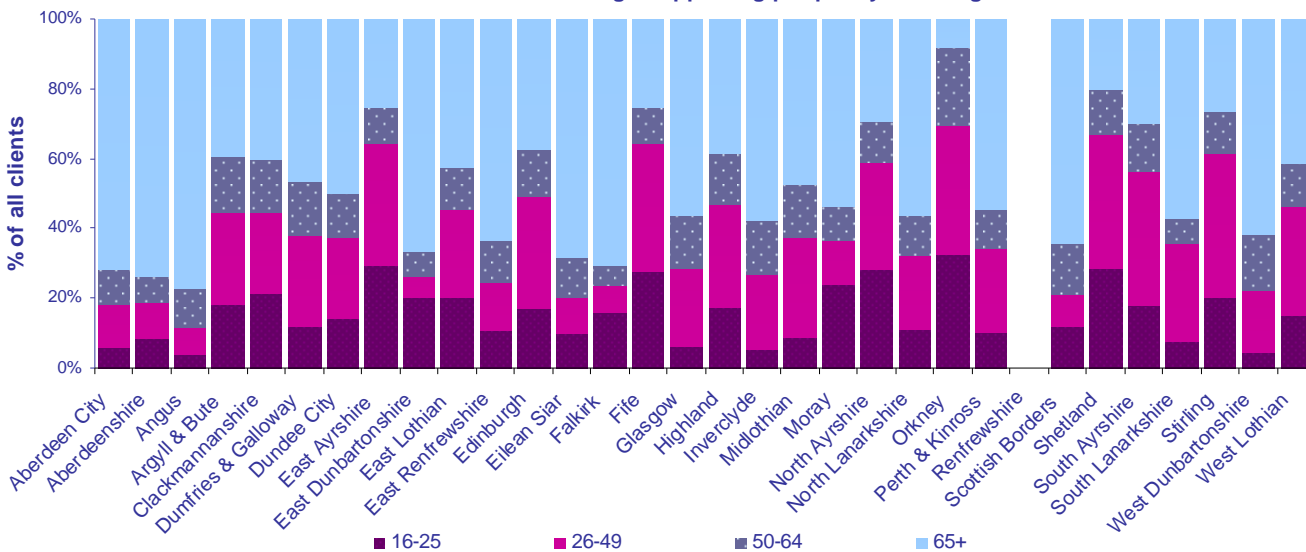


Chart 2: Clients assisted through supporting people by broad client group



- 57% of clients are female and 50% are aged 65 or over. Only 13% of clients are aged 25 or under (Chart 3).

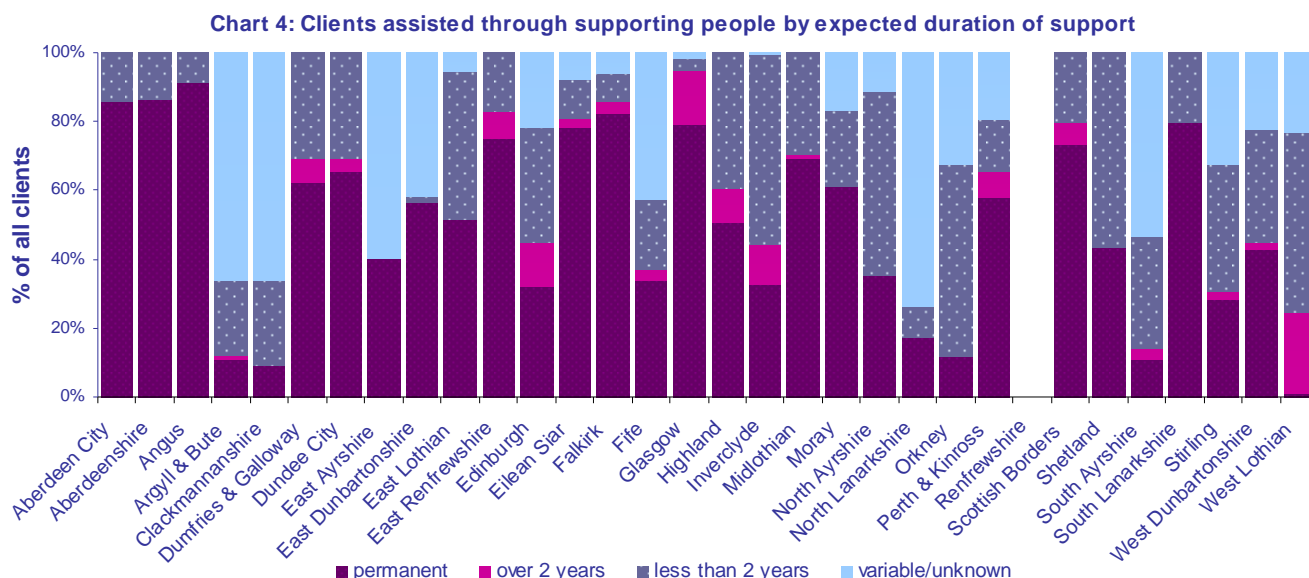
Chart 3: Clients assisted through supporting people by broad age band



- Overall, 4% of the adult population received support in 2006-07. This proportion rises to 13% for people aged 75-84, and to 28% for those aged 85 and over. The local authorities with the highest reported proportions of clients per head of population aged 16 and over were West Dunbartonshire (9%), Clackmannanshire and Argyll & Bute (8% each). The lowest proportions were found in Orkney, Eilean Siar, and Shetland (all at 1%) (Chart 1).
- The largest providers of support services were local authority social work departments (32% of clients), local authority housing (26%), and registered social landlords (25%). Voluntary organisations provided support to 18% of clients.
- 34% of clients received 1-4 hours per week of floating support, 10% received 1-4 hours per week of accommodation linked support and 7% received continuous accommodation linked support. In 2005-06, continuous accommodation linked support included warden services and community alarms, but

these two types of service are now shown separately and are excluded from the support hours question. Therefore the 2 years of data are not directly comparable. In 2006-07 23% of clients benefitted from a community alarm and 21% had access to a warden service.

- For the majority of clients (51%) the support received is permanent (Chart 4). Only 1% of clients required less than one month of support.



- Over half of all clients received support in mainstream housing (54%), with a further 23% in sheltered housing

3. BACKGROUND

Supporting People was an integrated policy and funding framework designed to provide Housing Support Services to a range of vulnerable people over the age of 16, in order that they could move into or remain living in their own homes. The Supporting People programme was introduced in Scotland, in April 2003, when funding was transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to the Scottish Executive. This, in turn was administered as a ring fenced grant to the Scottish local authorities who have the responsibility for assessing local need and providing these services or purchasing Housing Support Services from external providers in order to meet these needs.

From April 2008 there will no longer be a ring fenced Supporting People grant nor a requirement to report in detail on funding spent on Housing Support Services. As part of the Spending Review it was announced that the Supporting People budget has been absorbed into the main local government settlement. The aim in removing ring fencing is to give greater flexibility in the use of funding and lift unnecessary accounting and reporting burdens. Funding will no longer be restricted to the 21 prescribed housing support services, allowing more flexible support packages to be developed with less bureaucracy. While there is no longer a separate funding stream the Scottish Government remains committed to the important role of Housing Support Services in supporting vulnerable people to live independent lives.

Local authorities are required to provide annual client statistics and financial returns to the Scottish Government for the financial year 2007-2008 and it is anticipated that there will be one further Supporting People statistical publication in 2009.

Further information can be found on the Supporting People website:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Housing/Housing/supportpeople/intro>

4. NOTES AND DATA ISSUES

General Issues

This is the fourth year of the data collection and although the quality of the data continues to improve, some local authorities still have difficulty in providing all of the information requested. Where this occurs, estimates have been made and these have been described in the footnotes to the [web tables](#) and in these notes below.

The Scottish Government requests information on the numbers of *clients* supported during the year. However, the information management systems in some local authorities are designed to produce statistics on the number of *services* provided, and client-based information cannot be extracted. This can result in double counting of clients who receive more than one service, who receive more than one period of support, or whose support needs change during the course of the year. Efforts have been made to estimate the extent of the double counting and to eliminate it as far as possible, but some local authorities have been unable to completely remove it. Known double counting is highlighted in the footnotes to the web tables.

The inclusion of clients receiving community alarms causes problems for a number of local authorities, and results in inconsistency of data recording between authorities and between years. The way that the information is held means that sometimes it is not possible for the authority to determine whether these clients receive other support services in addition to receiving a community alarm. Some authorities double count these clients, while others remove alarm users from their return. For 2006-07 local authorities were specifically asked about the numbers of clients benefitting from a community alarm and/or warden service, and these figures are shown separately.

The information provided by some local authorities is not yet consistent over time, which means that apparent changes between years should be interpreted with caution. In 2006-07 there was a reported overall increase in client numbers of 8%, with some large changes in individual local authorities. For example, Clackmannanshire record an apparent 207% increase in client numbers, and Argyll & Bute 31%. However, such changes can be at least partially explained by a number of factors:

- changes in the way that services are provided
- improvements to data collection methods as authorities become more familiar with the information required

More information about issues specific to individual local authorities is shown in the following section.

Local Authority Information

The data presented in the [web tables](#) refer to financial years, apart from Dundee, where data is a snapshot at March 2007.

Particular care should be taken interpreting results for the following local authorities:

- [Argyll & Bute](#) have provided more detailed information for 2006-07 which has enabled the extent of double counting to be more accurately determined than in previous years. This may be partially responsible for the increase in client numbers in 2006-07.
- [Clackmannanshire](#) have introduced new services in 2006-07 (social services and occupational therapy) for support hours for adult care clients, particularly for low - medium support. This is a genuine increase in clients and accounts for over half of the 2,000 increase. Most of the remaining increase in clients can be attributed to better information being received on the turnover of homeless clients, which was found to be higher than previously thought.
- [Dundee](#) were unable to provide an age, gender or ethnicity breakdown for 2006-07. Figures have been estimated using Scotland proportions.
- [East Ayrshire](#) have only included clients who can be positively identified as separate individuals so community alarm users have been excluded from the 2006-07 client numbers. This has caused an apparent decrease in client numbers between 2005-06 and 2006-07. [North Lanarkshire](#) have excluded their community alarm users in all years of data for similar reasons.

- East Dunbartonshire have received more accurate data in 2006-07 for the 'homeless' and 'vulnerable due to young age' client groups, where previously this information was not available from providers. This is the main cause of the apparent 26% increase in client numbers between 2005-06 and 2006-07.
- Despite efforts to remove double counting in the client totals, some might still remain in East Lothian, Edinburgh, Fife, Inverclyde and Glasgow, for one or more of the following reasons:
 - client information held on more than one database
 - databases designed to record service provision not clients
 - information supplied by individual service providers.
- Renfrewshire was unable to provide data for 2006-07. In most tables, 2005-06 data were used to estimate 2006-07 Scotland totals, but the local authority rows have been marked as 'not available'.
- North Ayrshire client numbers have increased in 2006-07 partly because of improved monitoring of homelessness.
- West Lothian council were unable to provide a breakdown of support hours in 2006-07. Support hours were estimated using Scotland proportions.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICES

OUR ROLE

The aim of the Statistical Service is to provide relevant and reliable information, analysis and advice that meet the needs of government, business and the people of Scotland.

OBJECTIVES

1. **To produce statistics and analysis relevant to user needs by**
 - Developing the range of statistics and analysis we produce;
 - Where practicable improving timeliness;
 - Providing more statistics disaggregated by age, gender and ethnicity;
 - Developing more data for small areas through the Neighbourhood Statistics project;
 - Contributing to production of comparable statistics across the UK and internationally.
2. **To ensure effective use of our statistics by**
 - Contributing more directly to policy processes inside and where possible outside government;
 - Improving access to and presentation of data and analysis;
 - Improving the advice provided on statistics.
3. **To work effectively with users and providers by**
 - Maintaining arrangements to consult and involve users and providers
 - Involving users and providers in planning developments in outputs and processes
4. **To develop the quality of statistics by**
 - Assuring and improving quality as an integral part of data collection and analysis and through regular reviews in line with National Statistics quality strategy;
 - Developing statistical methods, systems and classifications;
 - Working with the rest of the Government Statistical Service to develop joint approaches/solutions where appropriate.
5. **To assure the integrity of statistics by**
 - Maintaining and promoting integrity through implementation of the National Statistics Code of Practice and related protocols;
 - Safeguarding the confidentiality of data subjects.
6. **To ensure the efficient and effective delivery of statistics products and services by**
 - Making best use of all sources including administrative sources,
 - Minimising the burden on data providers through survey monitoring and advice;
 - Ensuring value for money;
 - Making best use of information and communications technology;
 - Working with other analysts;
 - Ensuring effective communication within the Statistician Group.
7. **To develop our workforce and competences**
 - Ensuring recruitment of staff with the necessary skills and potential;
 - Ensuring development of expertise amongst existing staff;
 - Promoting and upholding the standards of the statistics profession.

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e-mail: statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Advice on specific areas of Scottish Government statistical work can be obtained from staff at the telephone numbers given below:

Scottish Government Statistics contacts

Schools – qualifications	(0131) 244 0313
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Community Care	(0131) 244 3777
Social Justice	(0131) 244 0442
Scottish Government personnel	(0131) 244 3926
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Fisheries	(0131) 244 6441
Courts and law	(0131) 244 2227
Recorded crime and prisons	(0131) 244 2225

Other contacts for Scottish statistics

Forestry Commission	(0131) 314 6337
The Scottish Funding Councils for Higher and Further Education	(0131) 313 6575
General Register Office for Scotland - Vital statistics and publications - Population statistics, census statistics or digital boundary products	(0131) 314 4243 (0131) 314 4254
Communities Scotland Registered Social Landlord statistics	(0141) 271 3756

For **general enquiries about National Statistics** in the United Kingdom Government contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service on

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minicom: 01633 812399
e-mail: info@statistics.gov.uk

Fax: 01633 652747
Letters: room DG/18, 1 Drummond Gate,
LONDON SW1V 2QQ

You can also find National Statistics on the internet
www.statistics.gov.uk

If you would like to be consulted about new or existing statistical collections or to receive notification of forthcoming statistical publications, please register your statistical interest on the Scottish Government ScotStat web site at www.scotland.gov.uk/scotstat

Current staff names, e-mail addresses and the publications listed below as well as a range of other statistical publications can be found on the Scottish Government website at www.scotland.gov.uk/stats

Further information on the General Register Office for Scotland is available on the website www.gro-scotland.gov.uk

Most recent statistical publications relating to the Natural and Built Environment theme (housing only)

Ref. no.	Title	Last published	Price
HSG/2006/7	Housing Trends in Scotland : Quarter ending 30 June 2006	November 2006	£2
HSG/2007/1	Local Authority Housing Income and Expenditure 2005-06to 2006-07	January 2007	£2
HSG/2007/2	Housing Trends in Scotland : Quarter ending 30 September 2006	February 2007	£2
HSG/2007/4	Supporting People Client Statistics 2006-07	March 2007	
HSG/2007/5	Housing Trends in Scotland : Quarter ending 31 December 2006	May 2007	£2
HSG/2007/6	Local Authority Housing Income and Expenditure 2006-07to 2007-08	July 2007	£2
HSG/2007/6	Operation of the Homeless Persons Legislation in Scotland: National and Local Authority Analyses 2006-07	October 2007	£2
	Housing Statistics for Scotland <i>web based information resource</i> http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Housing-Regeneration/HSIS	February 2008	Free online

Additional copies of these publications may be purchased from **Scottish Government Publication Sales, Blackwell's Bookshop, 53 South Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1YZ**, Telephone: (0131) 662 8283, Fax: (0131) 557 8149. Cheques should be made payable to 'Blackwell's Bookshop'.

Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service, please write to the Chief Statistician, Mr Rob Wishart, 3 Floor East Rear, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail rob.wishart@scotland.gov.uk. We also welcome any comments or suggestions that would help us to improve our standards of service.

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