

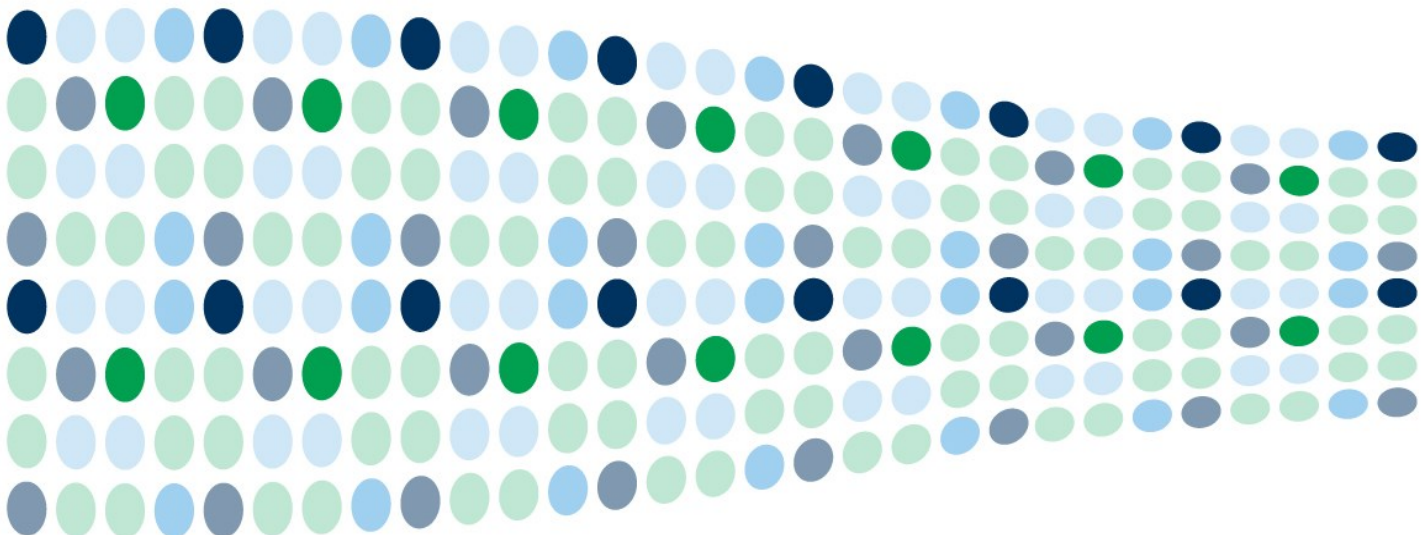


Health & Social Care  
Information Centre



# Registered Blind and Partially Sighted People

Year ending 31 March 2014, England



Published 2 September 2014

**We are the trusted  
national provider of  
high-quality information,  
data and IT systems for  
health and social care.**

---

**[www.hscic.gov.uk](http://www.hscic.gov.uk)**

**[enquiries@hscic.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hscic.gov.uk)**

 **[@hscic](https://twitter.com/hscic)**

This report may be of interest to members of the public, policy officials and other stakeholders, in order to make local and national comparisons and to monitor the quality and effectiveness of services.

**Author:** **Adult Social Care Statistics,  
Health and Social Care Information Centre**

**Responsible statistician:** **Katharine Robbins, Programme Manager**

**Version:** **V1.0**

**Date of publication:** **2 September 2014**

# Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Executive Summary</b>   | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>1. Introduction</b>   | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>2. Registration</b>   | <b>9</b>  |
| Introduction   | 9         |
| Registrations  | 9         |
| Age distribution   | 12        |
| <b>3. Additional Disability</b>  | <b>21</b> |
| Introduction   | 21        |
| Type of additional disability  | 21        |
| Age Distribution   | 22        |
| <b>Appendix 1: Editorial Notes and Data Quality</b>  | <b>23</b> |
| Introduction to the data source  | 23        |
| Relevance, the degree to which the statistical product meets the user needs in both Coverage and Content | 23        |
| Accuracy   | 23        |
| Validation   | 24        |
| Rounding   | 25        |
| Coherence and Comparability  | 25        |
| Timeliness and Punctuality   | 26        |
| Accessibility and Clarity  | 26        |
| Assessment of user Needs and Perceptions   | 26        |
| Performance, Cost and Respondent Burden  | 26        |
| Confidentiality, Transparency and Security   | 27        |
| <b>Appendix 2: How are the statistics used? Users and Uses of the report</b>                             | <b>28</b> |
| Uses of Statistics by Known Users  | 28        |
| Department of Health   | 28        |
| Local Authorities  | 28        |
| Guide Dogs   | 28        |
| Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB)  | 28        |
| Certificate of Vision Impairment Committee   | 29        |
| Unknown Users  | 29        |
| <b>Appendix 3: Related Publications</b>  | <b>30</b> |
| <b>Appendix 4: Data Collection</b>   | <b>32</b> |
| <b>Appendix 5: Council Level Tables</b>  | <b>34</b> |

## **This is a National Statistics publication**

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.



Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

Meet identified user needs

Are well explained and readily accessible

Are produced according to sound methods

Are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

Find out more about the Code of Practice for Official Statistics at [www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice)

## Executive Summary

This publication contains detailed statistics on adults and children registered, with councils with social services responsibilities in England, as being blind or partially sighted. The data are compiled from the triennial SSDA 902 return submitted by councils to the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC).

People that have a Certificate of Vision Impairment from an ophthalmologist choose whether or not to be included in their local authority's register of blind or partially sighted people; registration is not automatic. Those that register become eligible for certain concessions. This means that not everybody that has been certified as having vision impairment is recorded on a local authority register. In addition, some local authorities have informed us that there are difficulties in providing some elements of these data. For these reasons the data in this publication cannot be considered as definitive numbers of blind and partially sighted people.

- There has been a decrease in the number of people on the register of blind people since the last publication in 2011. The number of people registered as blind fell from 147,800 in 2011 to 143,400 in 2014; a decrease of 4,400 (three per cent). The number of people registered as blind decreased from 156,700 in 2003 to 143,400 in 2014; a reduction of eight per cent.
- For the register of blind people, the age band showing the largest decrease in the numbers of people on the register is ages 75 and over. The number on the register in the 75 and over age band fell from 94,500 in 2011 to 87,900 in 2014; a decrease of 6,600 (seven per cent). For this age band, the number of people registered as blind fell from 105,700 in 2003 to 87,900 in 2014; a decrease of 17 per cent.
- There has been a decrease in the number of people on the register of partially sighted people since the last publication in 2011. The number of people registered as partially sighted fell from 151,000 in 2011 to 147,700 in 2014; a decrease of 3,300 (two per cent). The number of people registered as partially sighted decreased from 155,200 in 2003 to 147,700 in 2014; a decrease of five per cent.
- For the register of partially sighted people, the age band showing the largest decrease in the numbers of people on the register is ages 75 and over. The number on the register in the 75 and over age band fell from 99,100 in 2011 to 94,300 in 2014; a decrease of 4,800 (five per cent). For this age band, the number of people registered as partially sighted fell from 105,500 in 2003 to 94,300 in 2014; a decrease of 11 per cent.
- There has been a decrease in the number of new registrations to the register of blind people since the last publication in 2011. The number of people added to the register of blind people decreased from 9,100 in the year ending 31 March 2011 to 8,900 in the year ending 31 March 2014; a reduction of three per cent.
- There was an increase in the number of new registrations to the register of partially sighted people since the last publication in 2011. The number of people added to the register of partially sighted people increased from 11,900 in the year ending 31 March 2011 to 12,200 in the year ending 31 March 2014; an increase of three per cent.
- For children aged 0-4 there have been increases in the number on the registers of both blind and partially sighted people since the last publication in 2011. The number of children aged 0-4 on the register of blind people increased from 710 in 2011 to 740 in 2014; an increase of three per cent. The number of children aged 0-4 on the register of partially sighted people increased from 540 in 2011 to 630 in 2014; an increase of 17 per cent.

- The number of children aged 5-17 registered as blind fell from 3,700 in 2011 to 3,500 in 2014; a decrease of five per cent. The number registered as partially sighted in the 5-17 age band fell from 4,700 in 2011 to 4,600 in 2014; a decrease of one per cent. For children aged 5-17 the number registered as blind has risen from 3,200 in 2003 to 3,500 in 2014; an increase of 10 per cent. The number registered as partially sighted in the 5-17 age band has risen from 4,200 in 2003 to 4,600 in 2014; an increase of nine per cent.

Note: figures above are rounded to the nearest five for values less than 1,000 and rounded to the nearest 100 for larger numbers. Therefore, calculated figures and percentages may not match the figures shown.

# 1. Introduction

The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) publishes a suite of reports on adult social care which cover:

- Activity - number of referrals made to local authorities, and the number people receiving assessments, reviews and services funded by local authorities.
- Expenditure - amount spent by local authorities carrying out their social care activity including service unit costs.
- Experience - surveys of service users and carers, which include questions on satisfaction with services received and quality of life of the individual.
- Workforce - the number and characteristics of staff employed by adult social services departments.
- Safeguarding Adults - information on referrals to adult social care safeguarding teams.
- People registered as blind or partially sighted.

This publication contains detailed statistics on adults and children registered, with councils with social services responsibilities in England, as being blind or partially sighted. The data are compiled from the triennial SSDA 902 return submitted by councils to the HSCIC.

For people to be registered as blind or partially sighted they must first undergo an examination by a consultant ophthalmologist. The consultant records his or her findings on the Certificate of Vision Impairment (CVI), on which the consultant also certifies whether or not the person meets the statutory definition of blindness or the non-statutory definition of partial sight. One copy of the CVI form is sent to the social services department and another copy is sent to the Certifications Office at Moorfields Eye Hospital; more detail on their use of the data is given in Appendix 2.

To set this report into context, it relates to adults and children officially registered with councils as being blind or partially sighted. This represents a proportion, but by no means all, of those who may have sight problems in the general population.

An analysis carried out by Access Economics<sup>1</sup> and funded by the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) estimated that 1.8 million people in 2008 in the UK<sup>2</sup> had partial sight or blindness. Of these, 1.1 million had mild sight loss, 440,000 had moderate sight loss and 220,000 had severe sight loss (blindness).

The Life Opportunities Survey in 2009-11<sup>3</sup> found that three per cent of adults aged 16 or over in Great Britain had a visual impairment which equates to around 1.7 million people.

Both these sources give numbers much larger than those in this report. This is likely to be mainly due to differences in definitions, i.e. not all of those classed as having mild or moderate sight loss in Access Economics report and those classed as having a visual impairment in the Life Opportunities Survey would be classed as blind or partially sighted according to the definitions used for completing the CVI form<sup>4</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> "Future sight loss UK (1): The economic impact of partial sight and blindness in the UK adult population"  
[www.rnib.org.uk/sites/default/files/FSUK\\_Summary\\_1.pdf](http://www.rnib.org.uk/sites/default/files/FSUK_Summary_1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Note that this report covers England only and not the whole of the UK

<sup>3</sup> [http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/los/index.php?page=los\\_wor](http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/los/index.php?page=los_wor)

<sup>4</sup> Certificate of Vision Impairment explanatory notes available at:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/127399/CVI-Explanatory-notes-in-DH-template.pdf.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/127399/CVI-Explanatory-notes-in-DH-template.pdf.pdf)

The Family Resources Survey<sup>5</sup> also asks whether people are registered as blind or partially sighted but these data are not published.

This publication relates to data for the year ending 31 March 2014; summary historical information for England is included in the tables and charts.

- Chapter 2 relates to the number of people registered and new registrations for blind and partially sighted people.
- Chapter 3 relates to people registered as blind or partially sighted that have another disability known to social services.
- Appendix 1 provides editorial notes on the data source and information on the data quality and definitions.
- Appendix 2 includes some examples from users that have used the information from previous releases of this publication and provides contact details to enable other users to provide feedback.
- Appendix 3 shows related publications which may be of interest and provides contact details and web links.
- Appendix 4 contains a representation of the data collection system that councils use to submit data for this publication.
- Appendix 5 lists the detailed Council data tables that are presented in annexes to this report.

The data are useful to central government (for policy monitoring and development), local government (for benchmarking), charities (for monitoring trends, planning and lobbying), academics and the general public who may be interested in this area as general background information. See Appendix 2 for more information on users and how they use the report.

---

<sup>5</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/collections/family-resources-survey--2](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/family-resources-survey--2)



## 2. Registration

### Introduction

This chapter presents analysis of the numbers of people on the registers of blind and partially sighted people.

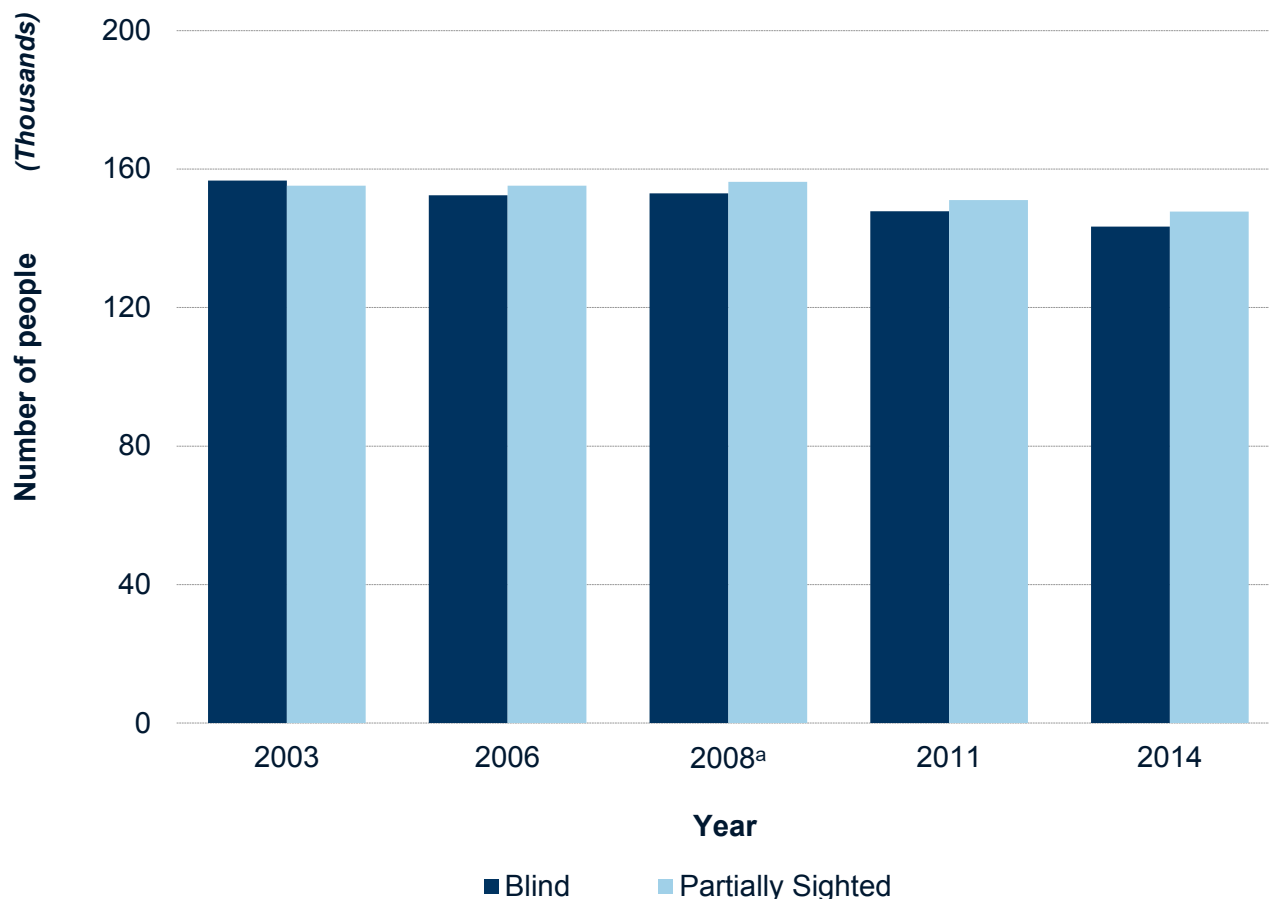
People that have a Certificate of Vision Impairment from an ophthalmologist choose whether or not to be included in their local authority's registers of blind or partially sighted people; registration is not automatic. Those that register become eligible for certain concessions. This means that not everybody that has been certified as having vision impairment is recorded on a local authority register. In addition, some local authorities have informed us that there are difficulties in providing these data. For these reasons the data in this publication cannot be considered as definitive numbers of blind and partially sighted people.

### Registrations

**Figure 2.1 and Table 2.1** show reductions in the number of people on both blind and partially sighted registers for 2014. 143,385 people in 2014 were registered as blind compared to 147,810 in 2011; a decrease of 4,430 (three per cent). 147,715 people in 2014 were registered as partially sighted, compared to 151,010 in 2011; a decrease of 3,295 (two per cent).

The number of people registered as blind decreased from 156,675 in 2003 to 143,385 in 2014; a reduction of eight per cent. The number of people registered as partially sighted decreased from 155,230 in 2003 to 147,715 in 2014; a decrease of five per cent.

The decrease in the numbers of people registered as blind may be related to a decrease in the number of new registrations.

**Figure 2.1: Number of people registered as blind or partially sighted as at 31 March, England 2003 – 2014****Table 2.1: Number of people registered as blind or partially sighted as at 31 March**

England, 2003-2014

Rounded Numbers<sup>1</sup>

| Number of people registered as at 31 March | Blind   | Partially Sighted |
|--|---------|-------------------|
| 2003                                       | 156,675 | 155,230           |
| 2006                                       | 152,455 | 155,200           |
| 2008 <sup>a</sup>                          | 152,980 | 156,285           |
| 2011                                       | 147,810 | 151,010           |
| 2014                                       | 143,385 | 147,715           |

1. Figures may not add due to rounding.

a. This collection was brought forward due to concerns over the decrease in the number of new registrations in 2006.

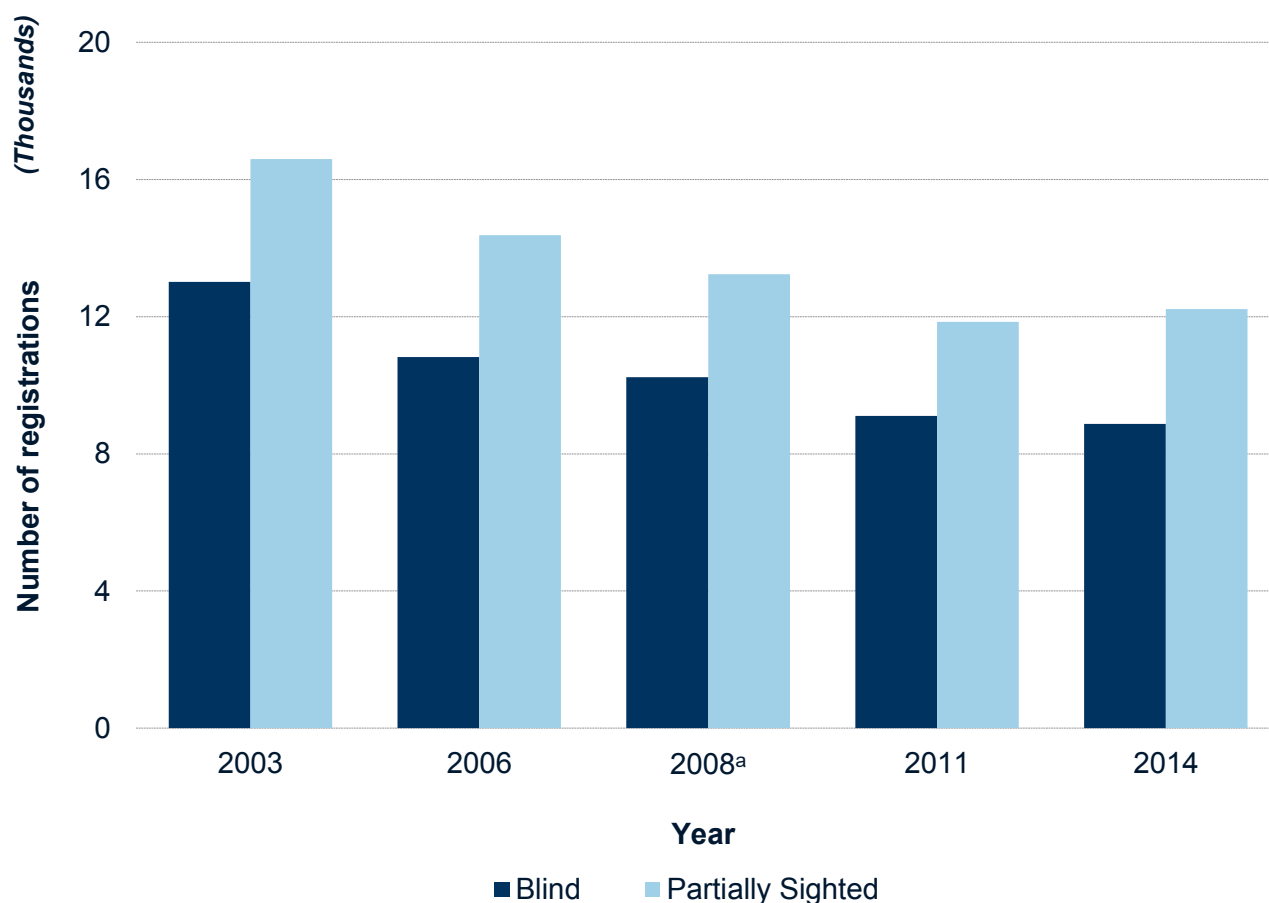
**Figure 2.2 and Table 2.2** show a reduction in the number of new registrations of blind people since the last publication. In 2014 there were 8,875 new registrations to the register of blind people, compared to 9,110 in 2011; a decrease of 235 (three per cent) from 2011.

The fall in the number of new registrations for blind people is in line with trends in Scotland which have also been falling in recent years<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/10/26094945/0>

For new registrations of partially sighted people, they show a rise with 12,220 new registrations in 2014 compared to 11,850 in 2011; an increase of 375 (three per cent) from 2011.

**Figure 2.2: Number of new registrations in the year ending 31 March, England 2003 - 2014**



**Table 2.2: Number of new registrations in the year ending 31 March**

England, 2003-2014

Rounded Numbers<sup>1</sup>

| Number of people registered in year ending 31 March | Blind  | Partially Sighted |
|---|--------|-------------------|
| 2003  | 13,015 | 16,595            |
| 2006  | 10,820 | 14,375            |
| 2008 <sup>a</sup>                                   | 10,230 | 13,240            |
| 2011  | 9,110  | 11,850            |
| 2014  | 8,875  | 12,220            |

1. Figures may not add due to rounding.

a. This collection was brought forward due to concerns over the decrease in the number of new registrations in 2006.

## Age distribution

### Register of Blind People

**Tables 2.3 and 2.4** show that the number of blind people registered has increased since 2011 for age bands 0-4, 18-49, 50-64 and 65-74. These increases have been more than balanced by decreases in age bands 5-17 and 75 and over, resulting in a net decrease.

The number of children aged 0-4 on the register of blind people increased from 710 in 2011 to 735 in 2014; an increase of 25 (three per cent).

For the age band 5-17, the number of children registered as blind fell from 3,730 in 2011 to 3,540 in 2014; a decrease of five per cent. For children aged 5-17 the number registered as blind has risen from 3,230 in 2003 to 3,540 in 2014; an increase of 10 per cent.

Since 2011, the age band 75 and over has had the largest change in the number of people registered as blind, with a reduction from 94,475 in 2011 to 87,920 in 2014; a decrease of 6,555 (seven per cent). For this age band, the number of people registered as blind fell from 105,655 in 2003 to 87,920 in 2014; a decrease of 17 per cent.

Possible explanations for the fall in new registrations for those aged over 65 include the availability of new treatments for age-related macular degeneration (which is a major cause of registration<sup>7</sup>), and the introduction of the diabetic screening program.

In April 2011, blind people under the age of 65 became eligible to claim the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)<sup>8</sup>, which may have impacted on the time series. In April 2013, Personal Independence Payments (PIP) began to replace DLA<sup>9</sup> for those aged 18-64; people with severe sight impairment are still eligible to claim the higher rate of the mobility component of this new benefit. However, it cannot be proved that the change to DLA eligibility directly impacted on the number of people registering.

**Table 2.3: changes in the number of people on the register of blind people as at 31 March**

| England, 2011-2014      |          | Rounded Numbers <sup>1</sup> |       |        |        |        |             |
|-------------------------|----------|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|
| as at 31 March          | All ages | Number of people aged        |       |        |        |        |             |
|                         |          | 0-4                          | 5-17  | 18-49  | 50-64  | 65-74  | 75 and over |
| <b>2011<sup>a</sup></b> | 147,810  | 710                          | 3,730 | 18,880 | 16,115 | 13,870 | 94,475      |
| <b>2014</b>             | 143,385  | 735                          | 3,540 | 19,570 | 17,580 | 14,040 | 87,920      |
| <b>change</b>           | -4,430   | 20                           | -190  | 685    | 1,465  | 175    | -6,555      |
| <b>per cent change</b>  | -3       | 3                            | -5    | 4      | 9      | 1      | -7          |

1. Figures may not add due to rounding.

a. 30 people on the blind register had an unknown age band.

<sup>7</sup> [www.nature.com/eye/journal/v24/n11/full/eye2010122a.html](http://www.nature.com/eye/journal/v24/n11/full/eye2010122a.html)

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/220295/dla-severely-visually-impaired-customers.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/220295/dla-severely-visually-impaired-customers.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/pip>

Table 2.4: Number of people on the register of blind people by age band

| England, 1982-2014         |           | Rounded Numbers <sup>1</sup> |                   |                    |                 |        |             |         |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------|-------------|---------|
| as at 31 March             | All ages  | Number of people aged        |                   |                    |                 |        |             |         |
|                            |           | 0-4                          | 5-17 <sup>a</sup> | 18-49 <sup>a</sup> | 50-64           | 65-74  | 75 and over |         |
| <b>1982</b> <sup>b</sup>   | all cases | 111,730                      | 280               | 1,710              | 11,470          | 13,420 | 19,380      | 65,480  |
|                            | new cases | 12,190                       | 80                | 100                | 730             | 1,050  | 2,380       | 7,850   |
| <b>1986</b> <sup>b,c</sup> | all cases | 120,550                      | 380               | 1,520              | 12,510          | 12,780 | 18,980      | 74,380  |
|                            | new cases | 12,030                       | 110               | 100                | -----1,650----- |        | 2,020       | 8,140   |
| <b>1988</b> <sup>b</sup>   | all cases | 126,830                      | 450               | 1,600              | 12,890          | 12,520 | 19,520      | 79,850  |
|                            | new cases | 13,900                       | 120               | 120                | -----1,790----- |        | 2,260       | 9,600   |
| <b>1991</b> <sup>b</sup>   | all cases | 136,200                      | 670               | 1,890              | 13,770          | 11,880 | 18,660      | 89,340  |
|                            | new cases | 13,630                       | 160               | 150                | -----1,800----- |        | 1,970       | 9,550   |
| <b>1994</b> <sup>b</sup>   | all cases | 149,670                      | 580               | 2,260              | 14,750          | 12,070 | 19,500      | 100,510 |
|                            | new cases | 14,050                       | 140               | 160                | 940             | 950    | 2,150       | 9,710   |
| <b>1997</b> <sup>b</sup>   | all cases | 158,590                      | 1,080             | 3,080              | 15,800          | 12,580 | 17,460      | 108,590 |
|                            | new cases | 13,560                       | 170               | 190                | 940             | 860    | 1,800       | 9,560   |
| <b>2000</b> <sup>b</sup>   | all cases | 157,820                      | 710               | 3,150              | 16,450          | 13,360 | 15,780      | 108,360 |
|                            | new cases | 12,950                       | 170               | 170                | 960             | 880    | 1,540       | 9,240   |
| <b>2003</b> <sup>b</sup>   | all cases | 156,675                      | 725               | 3,230              | 17,090          | 14,520 | 15,460      | 105,655 |
|                            | new cases | 13,015                       | 180               | 230                | 975             | 935    | 1,500       | 9,195   |
| <b>2006</b>                | all cases | 152,455                      | 590               | 3,235              | 18,340          | 15,085 | 14,545      | 100,660 |
|                            | new cases | 10,820                       | 155               | 165                | 905             | 815    | 1,115       | 7,660   |
| <b>2008</b> <sup>d,e</sup> | all cases | 152,980                      | 805               | 3,975              | 19,330          | 15,655 | 14,805      | 98,270  |
|                            | new cases | 10,230                       | 195               | 220                | 880             | 750    | 1,050       | 7,130   |
| <b>2011</b> <sup>f</sup>   | all cases | 147,810                      | 710               | 3,730              | 18,880          | 16,115 | 13,870      | 94,475  |
|                            | new cases | 9,110                        | 200               | 205                | 985             | 800    | 940         | 5,975   |
| <b>2014</b>                | all cases | 143,385                      | 735               | 3,540              | 19,570          | 17,580 | 14,040      | 87,920  |
|                            | new cases | 8,875                        | 190               | 180                | 890             | 865    | 835         | 5,915   |

1. Figures may not add due to rounding.

a. Prior to 1994, the age bands were 5-15 and 16-49.

b. Historical data taken from the Department of Health.

c. The 1985 return was postponed in order to coincide with the BD8 return (now the CVI).

d. 150 people on the blind register had an unknown age band.

e. This collection was brought forward due to concerns over the decrease in the number of new registrations in 2006.

f. 30 people on the blind register had an unknown age band.

## Register of Partially Sighted People

**Tables 2.5 and 2.6** show that the number of people registered as partially sighted has increased in the 0-4, 18-49 and 50-64 age bands when compared to 2011, whereas in the 5-17, 65-74, and 75 and over age bands there has been a decrease in the numbers on the register.

The number of children aged 0-4 on the register of partially sighted people increased from 535 in 2011 to 630 in 2014; an increase of 95 (17 per cent).

The number registered as partially sighted in the 5-17 age band fell from 4,660 in 2011 to 4,630 in 2014; a decrease of one per cent. The number registered as partially sighted in the 5-17 age band has risen from 4,230 in 2003 to 4,630 in 2014; an increase of nine per cent.

Since 2011, the age band 75 and over has the largest change in the number of people registered as partially sighted, with a reduction from 99,085 in 2011 to 94,280 in 2014; a decrease of 4,805 (five per cent). For this age band, the number of people registered as partially sighted fell from 105,525 in 2003 to 94,280 in 2014; a decrease of 11 per cent.

**Table 2.5: changes in the number of people on the register of partially sighted people as at 31 March England, 2011-2014** Rounded Numbers<sup>1</sup>

| as at 31 March          | All ages | Number of people aged |       |        |        |        |             |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|
|                         |          | 0-4                   | 5-17  | 18-49  | 50-64  | 65-74  | 75 and over |
| <b>2011<sup>a</sup></b> | 151,010  | 535                   | 4,660 | 17,415 | 14,535 | 14,755 | 99,085      |
| <b>2014</b>             | 147,715  | 630                   | 4,630 | 18,210 | 15,400 | 14,565 | 94,280      |
| <b>change</b>           | -3,295   | 95                    | -35   | 795    | 865    | -190   | -4,805      |
| <b>per cent change</b>  | -2       | 17                    | -1    | 5      | 6      | -1     | -5          |

1. Figures may not add due to rounding.

a. 15 people on the partially sighted register had an unknown age band.

**Table 2.6: Number of people on the register of partially sighted people by age band**

England, 1982-2014

Rounded Numbers<sup>1</sup>

| as at 31 March             |           | All ages | Number of people aged |                   |                    |        |        | 75 and over |
|----------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
|                            |           |          | 0-4                   | 5-17 <sup>a</sup> | 18-49 <sup>a</sup> | 50-64  | 65-74  |             |
| <b>1982</b> <sup>b</sup>   | all cases | 58,000   | 170                   | 2,060             | 8,660              | 5,640  | 9,420  | 32,060      |
|                            | new cases | 9,040    | 70                    | 150               | 570                | 960    | 1,900  | 5,390       |
| <b>1986</b> <sup>b,c</sup> | all cases | 71,100   | 180                   | 1,770             | 9,730              | 6,280  | 10,990 | 42,150      |
|                            | new cases | 10,470   | 60                    | 160               | -----1,590-----    |        | 2,060  | 6,600       |
| <b>1988</b> <sup>b</sup>   | all cases | 79,050   | 220                   | 1,680             | 10,300             | 6,760  | 11,790 | 48,300      |
|                            | new cases | 12,010   | 80                    | 180               | -----1,840-----    |        | 2,280  | 7,640       |
| <b>1991</b> <sup>b</sup>   | all cases | 93,780   | 370                   | 1,780             | 11,160             | 7,590  | 13,280 | 59,600      |
|                            | new cases | 13,640   | 120                   | 200               | -----1,970-----    |        | 2,530  | 8,820       |
| <b>1994</b> <sup>b</sup>   | all cases | 115,710  | 500                   | 2,360             | 12,460             | 8,850  | 16,040 | 75,500      |
|                            | new cases | 15,910   | 160                   | 290               | 1,020              | 1,240  | 2,760  | 10,440      |
| <b>1997</b> <sup>b</sup>   | all cases | 138,180  | 760                   | 3,130             | 13,290             | 10,380 | 16,720 | 93,900      |
|                            | new cases | 17,990   | 200                   | 360               | 1,140              | 1,330  | 2,760  | 12,210      |
| <b>2000</b> <sup>b</sup>   | all cases | 148,680  | 620                   | 3,650             | 14,030             | 11,500 | 16,160 | 102,710     |
|                            | new cases | 17,490   | 200                   | 350               | 1,000              | 1,230  | 2,580  | 12,140      |
| <b>2003</b> <sup>b</sup>   | all cases | 155,230  | 585                   | 4,230             | 15,315             | 12,935 | 16,640 | 105,525     |
|                            | new cases | 16,595   | 170                   | 355               | 1,085              | 1,225  | 2,305  | 11,455      |
| <b>2006</b>                | all cases | 155,200  | 500                   | 4,300             | 15,920             | 13,385 | 15,665 | 105,430     |
|                            | new cases | 14,375   | 180                   | 315               | 960                | 1,160  | 1,770  | 9,990       |
| <b>2008</b> <sup>d,e</sup> | all cases | 156,285  | 700                   | 5,140             | 16,845             | 14,105 | 16,055 | 103,345     |
|                            | new cases | 13,240   | 185                   | 380               | 1,015              | 1,145  | 1,620  | 8,890       |
| <b>2011</b> <sup>f</sup>   | all cases | 151,010  | 535                   | 4,660             | 17,415             | 14,535 | 14,755 | 99,085      |
|                            | new cases | 11,850   | 175                   | 310               | 1,040              | 1,130  | 1,310  | 7,880       |
| <b>2014</b>                | all cases | 147,715  | 630                   | 4,630             | 18,210             | 15,400 | 14,565 | 94,280      |
|                            | new cases | 12,220   | 230                   | 360               | 1,215              | 1,275  | 1,285  | 7,855       |

1. Figures may not add due to rounding.

a. Prior to 1994, the age bands were 5-15 and 16-49.

b. Historical data taken from the Department of Health.

c. The 1985 return was postponed in order to coincide with the BD8 return (now the CVI).

d. 100 people on the partially sighted register had an unknown age band.

e. This collection was brought forward due to concerns over the decrease in the number of new registrations in 2006.

f. 15 people on the partially sighted register had an unknown age band.

**Table 2.7** shows the distribution by age band of people registered blind and partially sighted over the past five data collections. It indicates that the percentage of people aged 75 and over was lower in 2014 data for both blind and partially sighted when compared to previous years.

61 per cent of those people registered as blind in 2014 were 75 and over, compared to 64 per cent in 2011. For those people registered as partially sighted in 2014, 64 per cent were 75 and over, compared to 66 per cent in 2011.

**Table 2.7: Percentage of people on the register of blind and partially sighted people, by age band**  
England, 2003-2014 Percentages<sup>1</sup>

| as at 31 March           | Percentage of people aged |      |       |       |       |             |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
|                          | 0-4                       | 5-17 | 18-49 | 50-64 | 65-74 | 75 and over |
| <b>Blind</b>             |                           |      |       |       |       |             |
| 2003                     | 0                         | 2    | 11    | 9     | 10    | 67          |
| 2006                     | 0                         | 2    | 12    | 10    | 10    | 66          |
| 2008 <sup>a</sup>        | 1                         | 3    | 13    | 10    | 10    | 64          |
| 2011                     | 0                         | 3    | 13    | 11    | 9     | 64          |
| 2014                     | 1                         | 2    | 14    | 12    | 10    | 61          |
| <b>Partially Sighted</b> |                           |      |       |       |       |             |
| 2003                     | 0                         | 3    | 10    | 8     | 11    | 68          |
| 2006                     | 0                         | 3    | 10    | 9     | 10    | 68          |
| 2008 <sup>a</sup>        | 0                         | 3    | 11    | 9     | 10    | 66          |
| 2011                     | 0                         | 3    | 12    | 10    | 10    | 66          |
| 2014                     | 0                         | 3    | 12    | 10    | 10    | 64          |

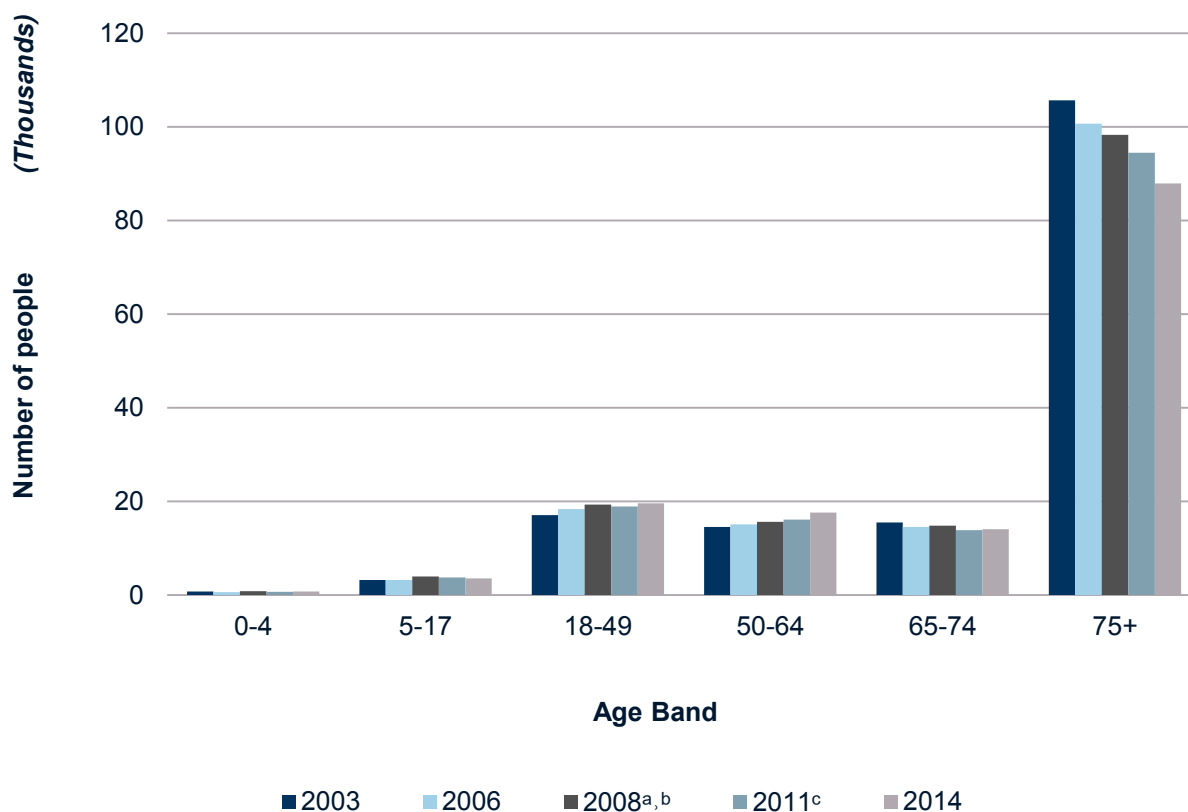
1. Figures may not add due to rounding.

a. This collection was brought forward due to concerns over the decrease in the number of new registrations in 2006.



**Figure 2.3 and Table 2.8** show a consistent fall in the number of people on the register of blind people aged 75 and over, for the period 2003-2014. The number on the register for age bands 18-49 and 50-64 has increased over this period.

**Figure 2.3: Number of people registered blind as at 31 March by age band, England 2003 – 2014**



**Table 2.8: Number of people registered as blind at 31 March by age band**

England, 2003-2014

Rounded Numbers<sup>1</sup>

| Registered blind as at March 31 | Number of people aged |       |        |        |        |         | Total   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
|                                 | 0-4                   | 5-17  | 18-49  | 50-64  | 65-74  | 75+     |         |
| <b>2003</b>                     | 725                   | 3,230 | 17,090 | 14,520 | 15,460 | 105,655 | 156,675 |
| <b>2006</b>                     | 590                   | 3,235 | 18,340 | 15,085 | 14,545 | 100,660 | 152,455 |
| <b>2008<sup>a,b</sup></b>       | 805                   | 3,975 | 19,330 | 15,655 | 14,805 | 98,270  | 152,980 |
| <b>2011<sup>c</sup></b>         | 710                   | 3,730 | 18,880 | 16,115 | 13,870 | 94,475  | 147,810 |
| <b>2014</b>                     | 735                   | 3,540 | 19,570 | 17,580 | 14,040 | 87,920  | 143,385 |

1. Figures may not add due to rounding.

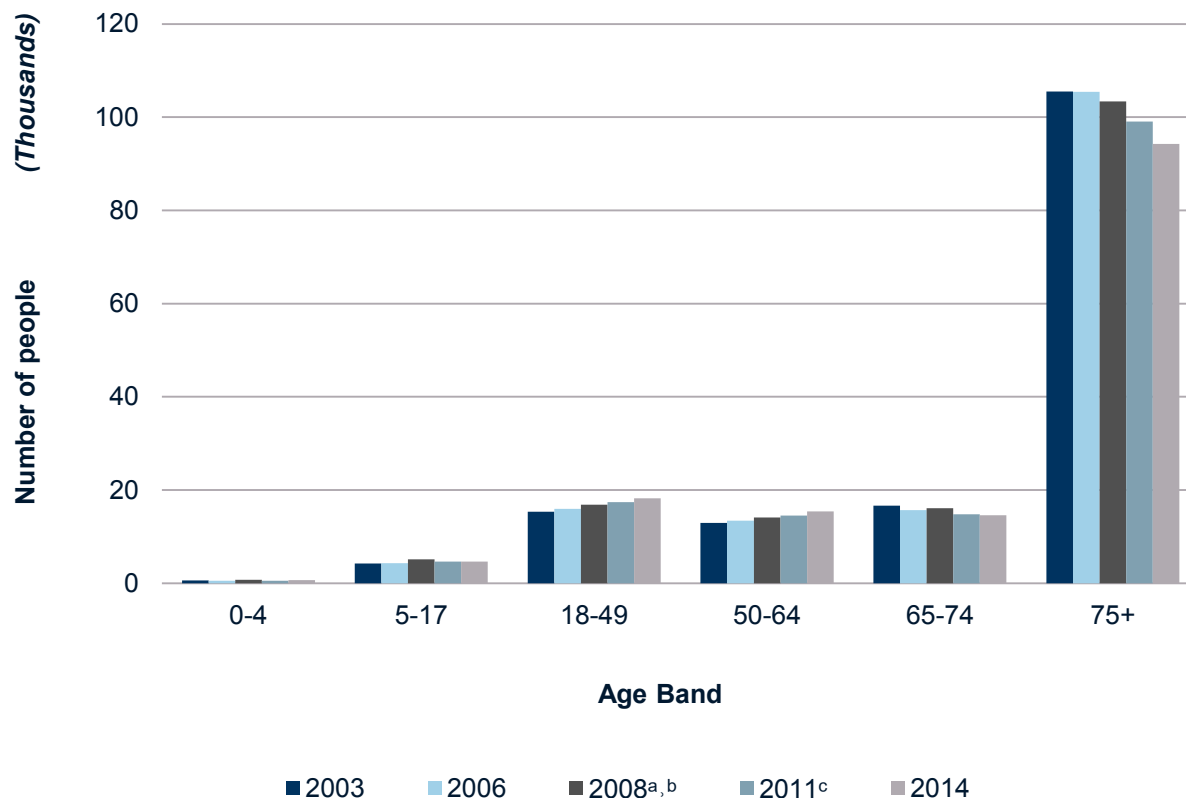
a. This collection was brought forward due to concerns over the decrease in the number of new registrations in 2006.

b. 150 people on the blind register had an unknown age band.

c. 30 people on the blind register had an unknown age band.

**Figure 2.4 and Table 2.9** show a decrease in the number of people on the register of partially sighted people aged 75 and over, for the period 2003-2014. The number on the register for age bands 18-49 and 50-64 has increased over this period.

**Figure 2.4: Number of people registered partially sighted as at 31 March by age band, England 2003 – 2014**



**Table 2.9: Number of people registered as partially sighted at 31 March by age band**

England, 2003-2014

Rounded Numbers<sup>1</sup>

| Registered partially sighted as at 31 March | Number of people aged |       |        |        |        |         | Total   |
|---|-----------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
|   | 0-4                   | 5-17  | 18-49  | 50-64  | 65-74  | 75+     |         |
| <b>2003</b>                                 | 585                   | 4,230 | 15,315 | 12,935 | 16,640 | 105,525 | 155,230 |
| <b>2006</b>                                 | 500                   | 4,300 | 15,920 | 13,385 | 15,665 | 105,430 | 155,200 |
| <b>2008<sup>a,b</sup></b>                   | 700                   | 5,140 | 16,845 | 14,105 | 16,055 | 103,345 | 156,285 |
| <b>2011<sup>c</sup></b>                     | 535                   | 4,660 | 17,415 | 14,535 | 14,755 | 99,085  | 151,010 |
| <b>2014</b>                                 | 630                   | 4,630 | 18,210 | 15,400 | 14,565 | 94,280  | 147,715 |

1. Figures may not add due to rounding.

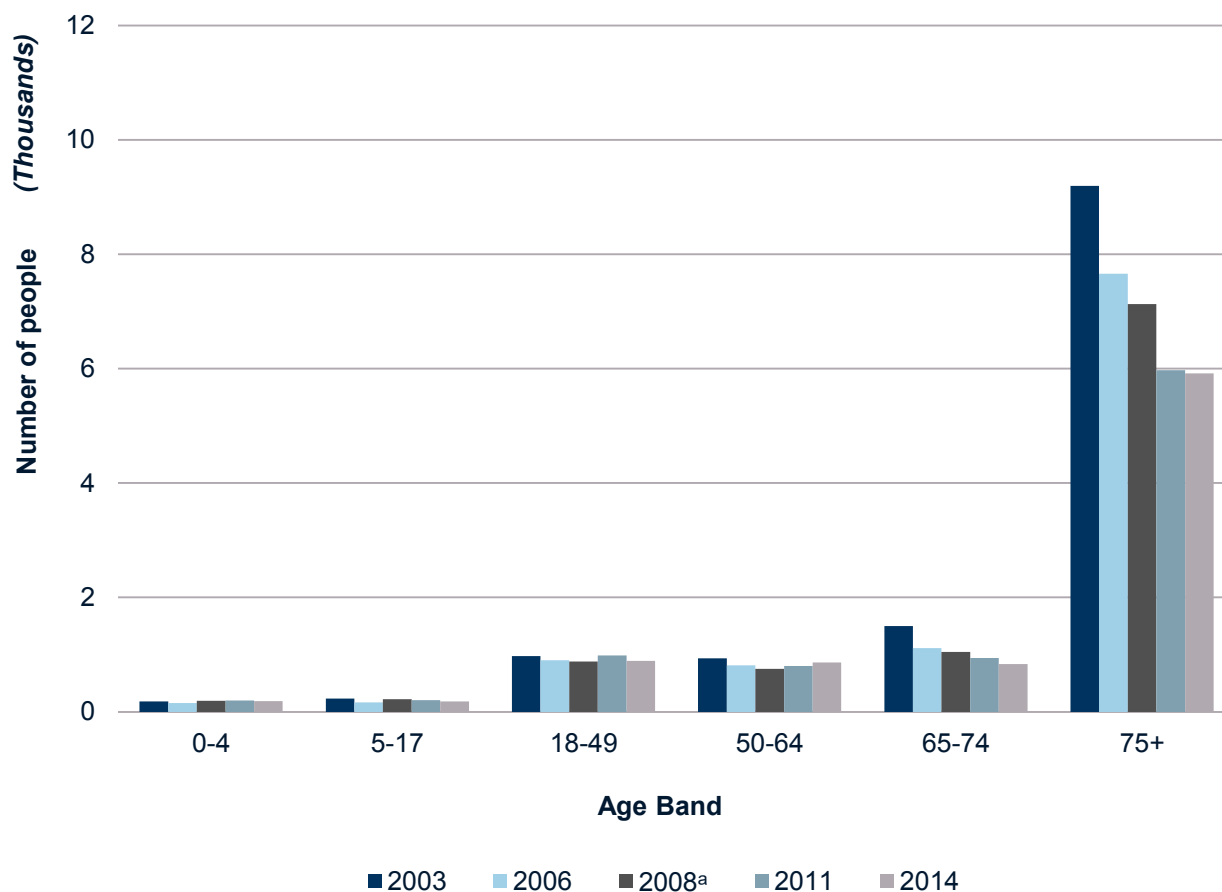
a. This collection was brought forward due to concerns over the decrease in the number of new registrations in 2006.

b. 100 people on the partially sighted register had an unknown age band.

c. 15 people on the partially sighted register had an unknown age band.

**Figure 2.5 and Table 2.10** show a fall in the number of new blind registrations in the age band 75 and over, for the period 2003-2014. The number of new blind registrations in the age band 65-74 has also decreased over this period.

**Figure 2.5: Number of new blind registrations in the year ending 31 March by age band, England 2003-2014**



**Table 2.10: Number of new blind registrations in the year ending 31 March**

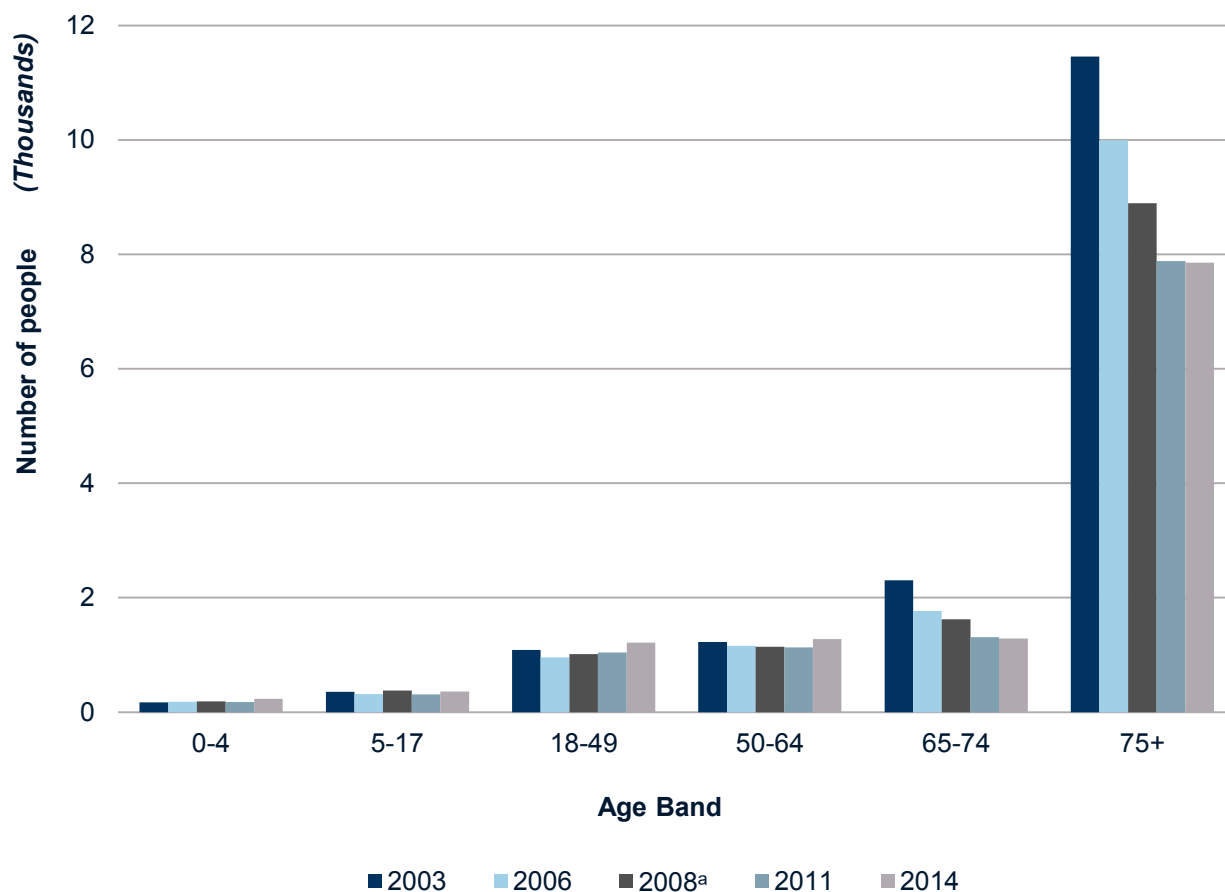
| England, 2003-2014                                  |                       |      |       |       |       |       | Rounded Numbers <sup>1</sup> |
|---|-----------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------------------------|
| New blind registrations in the year ending 31 March | Number of people aged |      |       |       |       |       | Total                        |
|   | 0-4                   | 5-17 | 18-49 | 50-64 | 65-74 | 75+   |                              |
| <b>2003</b>   | 180                   | 230  | 975   | 935   | 1,500 | 9,195 | 13,015                       |
| <b>2006</b>   | 155                   | 165  | 905   | 815   | 1,115 | 7,660 | 10,820                       |
| <b>2008<sup>a</sup></b>                             | 195                   | 220  | 880   | 750   | 1,050 | 7,130 | 10,230                       |
| <b>2011</b>   | 200                   | 205  | 985   | 800   | 940   | 5,975 | 9,110                        |
| <b>2014</b>   | 190                   | 180  | 890   | 865   | 835   | 5,915 | 8,875                        |

1. Figures may not add due to rounding.

a. This collection was brought forward due to concerns over the decrease in the number of new registrations in 2006.

**Figure 2.6** and **Table 2.11** show a decrease in the number of new partially sighted registrations in the age band 75 and over, for the period 2003-2014. The number of new partially sighted registrations in the age band 65-74 has also decreased over this period.

**Figure 2.6: Number of new partially sighted registrations in the year ending 31 March by age band, England 2003-2014**



**Table 2.11: Number of new partially sighted registrations in the year ending 31 March**

England, 2003-2014

Rounded Numbers<sup>1</sup>

| New partially sighted registrations in the year ending 31 March | Number of people aged |      |       |       |       |        | Total  |
|---|-----------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
|   | 0-4                   | 5-17 | 18-49 | 50-64 | 65-74 | 75+    |        |
| <b>2003</b>   | 170                   | 355  | 1,085 | 1,225 | 2,305 | 11,455 | 16,595 |
| <b>2006</b>   | 180                   | 315  | 960   | 1,160 | 1,770 | 9,990  | 14,375 |
| <b>2008<sup>a</sup></b>   | 185                   | 380  | 1,015 | 1,145 | 1,620 | 8,890  | 13,240 |
| <b>2011</b>   | 175                   | 310  | 1,040 | 1,130 | 1,310 | 7,880  | 11,850 |
| <b>2014</b>   | 230                   | 360  | 1,215 | 1,275 | 1,285 | 7,855  | 12,220 |

1. Figures may not add due to rounding.

a. This collection was brought forward due to concerns over the decrease in the number of new registrations in 2006.

## 3. Additional Disability

### Introduction

This chapter provides information about those people registered blind or partially sighted who were recorded as having an additional disability. Where a person has multiple additional disabilities, any hearing disability takes priority. Not all councils were able to provide the information requested for additional disabilities and therefore the breakdown has been based on the returns from 150 councils and includes partial data for 6 councils.

49,925 (35 per cent) of those people registered blind and 51,225 (35 per cent) of those registered partially sighted were recorded as having an additional disability.

### Type of additional disability

**Table 3.1** illustrates that the most frequently recorded additional disability was physical disability, which accounted for 60 per cent of blind registrations and 65 per cent of partially sighted registrations. 26 per cent of those registered blind were recorded as having hearing-related disabilities; for those registered as partially sighted, this figure was 23 per cent.

**Table 3.1: Percentage of people registered blind or partially sighted with an additional disability<sup>1,2</sup>**

| England, 2014                |  | Percentages <sup>3</sup>  |  |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|
| With additional disability   | % of people registered blind with additional disability at 31 March 2014 | % of people registered partially sighted with an additional disability at 31 March 2014 |  |
| Hard of Hearing              | 19   | 19  |  |
| Deaf without speech          | 2  | 1   |  |
| Deaf with speech             | 5  | 3   |  |
| <b>Total hearing related</b> | <b>26</b>  | <b>23</b>   |  |
| Physical Disability          | 60   | 65  |  |
| Learning Disability          | 9  | 6   |  |
| Mental health                | 5  | 6   |  |
| <b>Total other</b>           | <b>74</b>  | <b>77</b>   |  |

1. Based on 150 councils.

2. Includes partial data for six of the 150 councils included; see the 'Missing Data' section in Appendix 1 for further detail.

3. Figures may not add due to rounding.

## Age Distribution

The distribution by age of those people recorded as having additional disabilities does vary slightly between the blind and partially sighted as shown in **Table 3.2**.

71 per cent of blind registrations and 77 per cent of partially sighted registrations with additional disabilities were aged 65 or over.

26 per cent of blind registrations and 21 per cent of partially sighted registrations with additional disabilities were aged 18 to 64.

The under 18 age band accounted for two per cent of people with additional disabilities for both registers.

**Table 3.2: Percentage of people registered blind or partially sighted with an additional disability by age band<sup>1,2</sup>**

| Age group         | % of people registered blind with an additional disability at 31 March 2014 | % of people registered partially sighted with an additional disability at 31 March 2014 |
|-------------------|---|---|
| 0 - 4             | 0   | 0   |
| 5 - 17            | 2   | 2   |
| <b>Under 18</b>   | <b>2</b>  | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>18 to 64</b>   | <b>26</b>   | <b>21</b>   |
| <b>65 or over</b> | <b>71</b>   | <b>77</b>   |

1. Based on 150 councils.

2. Includes partial data for six of the 150 councils included; see the 'Missing Data' section in Appendix 1 for further detail.

3. Figures may not add due to rounding.

# Appendix 1: Editorial Notes and Data Quality

## Introduction to the data source

Data collection SSDA 902 relates to the registers of blind and partially sighted people maintained by councils with social services responsibilities. It collects data on the numbers of people on each register at the end of the year and the number of new registrations during the last year. Data are also requested on the number of registered blind and partially sighted persons who have an additional disability. A representation of the forms in the data collection system that councils use to submit data is provided in Appendix 4.

## Relevance, the degree to which the statistical product meets the user needs in both Coverage and Content

The information is provided at council level for all councils with social services responsibilities in England. Data for all registered blind and partially sighted persons are collected from all 152 Councils.

The data are used by central government to monitor the impact of social care policy and by local government to assess their performance in relation to their peers. This is also available for use by researchers looking at council performance and by services users and the public to hold councils and government to account. For some examples of how these data are used by Guide Dogs for the Blind, the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the Certificate of Vision Impairment Committee, please see Appendix 2.

## Accuracy

Statistics on all registered blind and partially sighted persons are collected from all 152 councils.

People that have a Certificate of Vision Impairment from an ophthalmologist choose whether or not to be included in their local authority's register of blind or partially sighted people; registration is not automatic. This means that not everybody that has been certified as having vision impairment is recorded on a local authority register. In addition, some local authorities have informed us that there are difficulties in providing these data. For these reasons the data in this publication cannot be considered as definitive numbers of blind and partially sighted people.

The statistics relating to blind people who have an additional disability may understate the true numbers. This is partly because there is no advantage to a blind person in being registered as having additional disabilities. There may also be reluctance to register pre-school children as blind until they reach the age of five, which would affect the data for this age band.

Due to additional guidance on deafblind registration (detailed below) where there was information on additional disabilities for people having multiple disabilities including deaf or hard of hearing, councils were advised to count this under the category of deaf or hard of hearing. This could lead to a bias towards deaf or hard of hearing disabilities.

## Deafblind registration

Statutory guidance under Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 was issued early in 2001 to councils with social services responsibilities. This was in response to concerns highlighted by the Departments of Health's consultation exercise which looked at social care services for deafblind people. Under the guidance, authorities were asked to take specific action aimed at improving services for deafblind people. Councils were asked to:

- Identify, make contact with and keep a record of deafblind people in their catchment area
- Ensure that assessments of deafblind people are carried out by a specifically trained person/team equipped to assess the needs of a deafblind person

- Ensure that appropriate services are provided to deafblind people
- Ensure that they are able to access specifically trained one-to-one support workers for those people they assess as requiring one.
- Provide information about services in formats and methods that are accessible to all deafblind people.

## Validation

Information on the validation process and guidance documents for this collection can be found at: <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/socialcarecollections2014>. Checks included comparing totals to the 2011 submission and ensuring total values provided were consistent with individual data.

For this year's return an error was identified with the collection system following data queries with councils. The validation and guidance documents stated that:

“Any blank cells within the submission will need to be populated or explained before the return can be released to the HSCIC. Unknown data items should not be populated with zeros. A zero means that there are NO individuals in this category; it is not a replacement for ‘unknown’ or ‘data not recorded’.

Despite this assertion in the guidance, the data collection system, when implemented, did not allow data items to be left blank; councils were forced to input zeros for data which were unknown or not available. In some cases councils populated the additional disabilities tables, or large sections of them, with zeros. The HSCIC contacted those councils, and where it was confirmed these data were unknown or not available, the zeros were removed. These figures have been displayed in the related annexes and csv files that form part of this publication as ‘.’ (two dots). However, it is highly likely that some zeros will be presented in the data where the councils would have wanted to report data unknown or not available, although this is not expected to materially impact on the findings presented within this report.

## Missing Data

A number of councils reported difficulties in completing the data return for Tables 2 and 3, which relate to additional disabilities, and two councils were unable to provide any data for these; further details are provided below.

Two councils were unable to provide any data for Tables 2 and 3, these being:

- Tameside
- Westminster

Six councils were able to provide only partial data for Tables 2 and 3:

- Leicester could only provide data for ‘hard of hearing’ in Tables 2 and 3
- Leicestershire could only provide data for ‘hard of hearing’ for Tables 2 and 3
- Rutland could only provide data for ‘hard of hearing’ for Tables 2 and 3
- North Somerset were not able to provide data on ‘physical disabilities’ for Tables 2 and 3
- Northamptonshire were not able to provide data on ‘deaf with speech’ or ‘deaf without speech’ for Tables 2 and 3
- Oxfordshire were unable to provide data for children for Tables 2 and 3

## Estimation

The HSCIC encourages councils to provide estimates where data are unknown as this helps to reduce under-reporting and allows statistics to be more representative of the true national figure. Councils are able to draw on local knowledge and expertise to calculate an appropriate estimation. For this collection three councils provided estimated data, details are provided below:

- Southampton Council informed us that they provided some estimates for the number of new registrations.



- Luton Council provided estimates for tables 2 and 3 on the number of users who also have additional disabilities 1) People who are deaf with speech and 2) People who are deaf without speech.
- Kent Council provided estimates for the distribution of children aged 0 – 17 for tables 2 and 3, but were able to provide an overall total.

### Other Reported Data Quality Issues

Thurrock Council, following their data submission, notified the HSCIC that their total numbers had been overstated. However, they were unable to provide revised data within the timescales for this publication; it was therefore agreed that their submitted data would be used.

## Rounding

Data in the commentaries and tables of this report have been rounded to the nearest five. Data have not been suppressed. Data in the executive summary are rounded to the nearest five for values less than 1,000 and rounded to the nearest 100 for larger numbers.

## Coherence and Comparability

As part of the data collection process, councils provide feedback on data quality and reasons for changes from the previous year.

Since 1980 complete data have normally been collected every third year, commencing with the data for 1982. This restriction was imposed in order to reduce the form filling burden on councils. The return for 1985 was however postponed for a year in order to coincide with the collection cycle for the BD8 return form (now CVI) on which data on causes of blindness and partial sight are collected. Also, a decision was made to bring the SSDA 902 collection forward to 2008, due to concerns regarding the fall in the number of people newly registered as blind and partially sighted between March 2003 and March 2006; this meant that there was no collection in 2009.

In the 2006 collection, there was a change in the terminology of the registers, blind and partial sight should now be expressed as severely sight impaired (blind) and sight impaired (partially sighted). This change was lobbied for by service user/patients as it more accurately describes their situation as people who may be technically blind or partially sighted could have useful residual vision. The criteria for certification did not change and so do not affect the time series and the old terms of 'blind' and 'partially sighted' were retained on the data collection system and published reports.

The grouping of additional disabilities in Tables 2 and 3 was changed in 2006 from previous collections. Some groups were merged and the deaf category was split. The details of these are below:

- The groupings 'Mentally ill people only' and 'Mentally ill people with other physical, sensory or speech disabilities' were combined to become 'People with mental health problems'.
- 'People with learning disabilities only' and 'People with learning disabilities and other physical, sensory or speech disabilities' were combined to become 'People with learning disabilities'.
- 'People with physical disabilities only' and 'People with physical disabilities and other physical, sensory or speech disabilities' were combined to become 'People with physical disabilities'.
- 'People who are deaf' were split into two groups 'People who are deaf with speech' and 'People who are deaf without speech'.

More information on the guidance provided to councils for the completion of the data collections can be found at: <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/socialcarecollections2014>.

The Advisory Group for Certifiable Vision Impairment Data compares the number of new registrations in this report with the number of CVIs they receive; more details can be found in Appendix 2. Certification of vision impairment figures map well to registration figures<sup>10</sup>.

The Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) includes indicators<sup>11</sup> for preventable sight loss which draw on data from CVIs. These indicators aim to ensure that avoidable sight loss is recognised as a critical and modifiable public health issue.

For the first time in at least five decades, diabetic retinopathy/maculopathy is no longer the leading cause of certifiable blindness among working age adults in England and Wales, having been overtaken by inherited retinal disorders<sup>12</sup>.

Changes in the numbers of children registered as blind or partially sighted are highlighted as part of Blind Children UK's campaign 'to raise awareness of the challenges faced by children with vision impairments and their families'. More information can be found at:

[www.blindchildrenuk.org/news/childhood-sight-loss-on-the-increase-in-the-uk](http://www.blindchildrenuk.org/news/childhood-sight-loss-on-the-increase-in-the-uk)

The fall in the number of new registrations for blind people is in line with trends in Scotland which have also been falling in recent years<sup>13</sup>.

## Timeliness and Punctuality

The data relate to the period ending 31 March 2014 and therefore the lag from the end of the financial year is around 6 months.

## Accessibility and Clarity

There are no restrictions to access to the published data.

Information on the accuracy and comparability of these data can be found in the previous sections of this appendix.

## Assessment of user Needs and Perceptions

User feedback on the format and content of the Registered Blind and Partially Sighted People report is invited; a web form to submit comments is available at:

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/haveyoursay>

The HSCIC's September 2013 Letter to Councils with Social Services Responsibilities<sup>14</sup> announced the SSDA 902 collection for 2014 and that the collection will be reviewed in due course.

## Performance, Cost and Respondent Burden

A compliance cost survey was undertaken in 2009-10 for the social care collections although unfortunately the data source for this publication was not included as it was not collected during that year. However the compliance cost to councils for the now discontinued SSDA 910 form, which was used to collect the number of people registered as deaf or hard of hearing, was collected and was estimated to be £35,000. It is estimated that the costs for completing the SSDA 902 form are slightly higher than this as information on additional disabilities is also collected, which is not collected on SSDA 910.

---

<sup>10</sup> [http://research.moorfields.nhs.uk/ECVI/Posters/UKVS\\_poster\\_2012.pdf](http://research.moorfields.nhs.uk/ECVI/Posters/UKVS_poster_2012.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> PHOF indicators 4.12i [Preventable sight loss - age related macular degeneration (AMD)], 4.12ii [Preventable sight loss - glaucoma], 4.12iii [Preventable sight loss - diabetic eye disease] and 4.12iv [Preventable sight loss - sight loss certifications]. [www.phoutcomes.info](http://www.phoutcomes.info).

<sup>12</sup> A comparison of the causes of blindness certifications in England and Wales in working age adults (16–64 years), 1999–2000 with 2009–2010 Gerald Liew, Michel Michaelides, Catey Bunce *BMJ Open* 2014;4:2  
<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/4/2/e004015.full>

<sup>13</sup> [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/10/26094945/0](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/10/26094945/0)

<sup>14</sup> [www.hscic.gov.uk/socialcarecollections2014](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/socialcarecollections2014)

The costs to the HSCIC of collecting, validating and disseminating the SSDA 910 form are estimated to be around £20,000 and again the costs for the SSDA 902 form will be slightly higher than this.

## **Confidentiality, Transparency and Security**

The data contained in this publication are National Statistics. The code of practice for official statistics is adhered to from collecting the data to publishing. The code of practice for official statistics can be accessed at <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>

The HSCIC publications calendar web page, available at [www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/calendar](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/calendar), provides links to relevant HSCIC policies and other related documents including:

Statistical Governance Policy

Small Numbers Procedure

Statement of Compliance with Pre-Release Order.

## Appendix 2: How are the statistics used? Users and Uses of the report

### Uses of Statistics by Known Users

This section contains comments based on responses from the users listed. All these users have found the information in the report useful for the purposes set out.

#### Department of Health

- Inform policy monitoring.
- Speeches and briefings for Ministers and senior officials such as that given by Earl Howe at the UK Vision Strategy Conference in June 2012.
- Parliamentary questions and prime minister's questions.
- Media Enquiries and other correspondence.
- Public Health England (PHE) uses the data to contextualise the indicator in the Public Health Outcomes Framework which uses CVI data<sup>15</sup>.
- PHE are responsible for the roll-out and quality assurance of screening programmes for diabetic retinopathy, and for understanding the association between the levels of registration and screening, which may lead to improved targeting.

#### Local Authorities

Councils use the data for helping to complete their Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, commissioning and for benchmarking levels of registration with comparator councils.

#### Guide Dogs

"We rely on national and regional data to anticipate future demand for services and to inform planning. That is not only in relation to managing the supply of staff, dogs and volunteers we need for the efficient running of the core guide dog service, but also to ensure that we can continue to respond to demand for other mobility services such as long cane mobility training or 'My Guide,' a sighted guiding service provided by volunteers. Community outreach staff working out of our local mobility teams also draw upon registration statistics when engaging with local voluntary and statutory organisations including local health and care commissioners to ensure that older people with sight loss are fully considered in local health and wellbeing strategies such as those focused on 'ageing better' or 'tackling loneliness.'"

#### Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB)

The RNIB use registration statistics to plan services and to monitor registrations trends over time by age, location and additional disability.

The publication data contributed to the Sight Loss Data Tool (SLDT), which the RNIB produced in 2013<sup>16</sup>. The SLDT has been used to inform the development of Joint Strategic Needs Assessments, which guide the commissioning of health, well-being and social care services within local authority areas. The SLDT has also enabled the RNIB to secure funding for work with local sight loss charities. By comparing the number of people on the register with the number of people that the local societies are in contact with, it has been possible to evidence unmet needs.

---

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.phoutcomes.info>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.rnib.org.uk/knowledge-and-research-hub-key-information-and-statistics/sight-loss-data-tool>

## Certificate of Vision Impairment Committee

When a patient is certified as severely sight impaired or sight impaired, the consultant ophthalmologist completes a Certificate of Vision Impairment; copies of these are sent to the Certifications Office at Moorfields Eye Hospital and to the patient's council.

The work of the Certifications Office is overseen by the Certification of Vision Impairment Committee who use the registrations data to assess, for each council, the variance between the number of new registrations reported and the number of certifications received. These data enable the investigation of any large discrepancies which may indicate that people in need are not receiving the care that they require.

## Unknown Users

This report is free to access via the HSCIC website and therefore the majority of users will access it without being known to the HSCIC. It is important to understand how these users are using the statistics and also to gain feedback on how we can make the data more useful to them. We welcome feedback from report users; ideally covering the following points:

How useful did you find the content in this publication?

How did you find out about this publication?

What type of organisation do you work for?

What did you use the report for?

What information was the most useful?

Were you happy with the data quality?

To help us improve our publications, what changes would you like to see (for instance content or timing)?

Would you like to take part in future consultations on our publications?

Feedback, comments and requests for further information should be addressed to:

The Contact Centre  
Health and Social Care Information Centre  
1 Trevelyan Square  
Boar Lane  
Leeds  
West Yorkshire  
LS1 6AE

Telephone: 0845 300 6016

Email: [enquiries@hscic.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hscic.gov.uk)

## Appendix 3: Related Publications

This report forms part of a suite of statistical reports. Other reports cover information on the wider scope of activity and social services provided for adults by councils with social services responsibilities and people in contact with NHS specialist mental health services. All reports are made available on the HSCIC website.

Comments on this publication would be welcomed. Any questions concerning any data in this publication, or requests for further information, should be addressed to:

### The Contact Centre

The Health and Social Care Information Centre  
1 Trevelyan Square  
Boar Lane  
Leeds  
West Yorkshire  
LS1 6AE

Telephone: 0845 300 6016

Email: [enquiries@hscic.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hscic.gov.uk)

This publication can be downloaded from the HSCIC website at [www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/blindpartiallysighted14](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/blindpartiallysighted14)

Previous publications of the Registered Blind and Partially Sighted reports, from 2008 onward, can be downloaded from the HSCIC website at: [www.hscic.gov.uk/social-care](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/social-care)

Registered Blind and Partially Sighted reports published before 2006 can be found in the national archive at:

[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/StatisticalWorkAreas/Statisticalsocialcare/DH\\_4095911](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/StatisticalWorkAreas/Statisticalsocialcare/DH_4095911)

Publications relating to social care activity, finance, staffing, and user experience surveys can be downloaded from the HSCIC website at [www.hscic.gov.uk/social-care](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/social-care)

### Social Care Publications

“People Registered Deaf or Hard of Hearing – Year ending March 31 2010, in England” available at: [www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/regdeaf10](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/regdeaf10)

“Community Care Statistics, Social Services Activity, England – 2013-14, Provisional release” available at [www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/commcaressa1314prov](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/commcaressa1314prov)

“Personal Social Services Expenditure and Unit Costs – England, 2012-13, Final release” available at [www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/pssexpcost1213fin](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/pssexpcost1213fin)

“Personal Social Services: Staff of Social Services Departments at 30 September – England, 2013” available at [www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/pssstaffsept13](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/pssstaffsept13)

“Measures from the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework, England – 2013-14, Provisional release” available at [www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/adusoccareof1314prov](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/adusoccareof1314prov)

“Personal Social Services Survey of Adult Carers in England – 2012-13, Final report, Experimental statistics” available at [www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/psscarerssurvey1213f](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/psscarerssurvey1213f)

“Personal Social Services Adult Social Care Survey, England – 2013-14, Provisional release” available at [www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/adusoccaresurv1314prov](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/adusoccaresurv1314prov)

“Personal Social Services Survey of Adults Receiving Community Equipment and/or Minor Adaptations, England, 2009-10” available at [www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/pssadultsequip0910](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/pssadultsequip0910)

### **Data for child services**

Information on social care for children is available from [www.gov.uk/childrens-services](http://www.gov.uk/childrens-services)

### **Data for the UK**

Information within this report relates to England. Similar publications for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland can be found via the following links:

The Welsh Assembly Government [www.wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/social-service-statistics/?lang=eng](http://www.wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/social-service-statistics/?lang=eng)The Scottish Government [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Support-Social-Care](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Support-Social-Care)

Northern Ireland - Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety  
[http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats\\_research/stats-cib/statistics\\_and\\_research-cib-pub/adult\\_statistics.htm](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/statistics_and_research-cib-pub/adult_statistics.htm)

## Appendix 4: Data Collection

Data for this publication are collected via a secure online system. This return is referred to as the SSDA 902 return. The tables below show the data items that are collected.

**Table 1**

Blind/severely sight impaired persons and partially sighted/sight impaired persons: numbers on the register and new registrations.

| Return Ref:<br>Table 1 | Return Title: Blind/severely sight impaired persons and partial sight/sight impaired persons – Numbers on the register and new registrations |   |   |  |
|------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Age:                   | Blind/severely sight impaired persons registered at 31/03/2014   | New registrations of blind/severely sight impaired persons in 2013-14 | Partial sight/sight impaired persons registered at 31/03/2014 | New registrations of partial sight/sight impaired persons in 2013-14 |
| 0 – 4                  |  |   |   |  |
| 5 – 17                 |  |   |   |  |
| 18 – 49                |  |   |   |  |
| 50 – 64                |  |   |   |  |
| 65 – 74                |  |   |   |  |
| 75 and over            |  |   |   |  |
| Total                  |  |   |   |  |

**Table 2**

Registered blind/severely sight impaired persons who have an additional disability, categorised by age

| Return Ref: Table 2                            | Return Title: Registered blind / severely sight impaired persons who have an additional disability – by age |        |         |             |       |
|--|---|--------|---------|-------------|-------|
| Period:<br>31 March 2014                       |   |        |         |             |       |
| Additional disability:                         | 0 – 4   | 5 - 17 | 18 - 64 | 65 and over | Total |
| People who are deaf with speech                |   |        |         |             |       |
| People who are deaf without speech             |   |        |         |             |       |
| People who are hard of hearing                 |   |        |         |             |       |
| People with physical disabilities              |   |        |         |             |       |
| People with mental health problems             |   |        |         |             |       |
| People with learning disabilities              |   |        |         |             |       |
| All persons with additional disability – Total |   |        |         |             |       |



**Table 3**

Registered partially sighted/sight impaired persons who have an additional disability, categorised by age

| <b>Return Ref: Table 3</b>                     | <b>Return Title: Registered partially sighted / sight impaired persons who have an additional disability – by age</b> |        |         |             |       |
|--|---|--------|---------|-------------|-------|
| <b>Period:<br/>31 March 2014</b>               |   |        |         |             |       |
| <b>Additional disability:</b>                  | 0 – 4   | 5 - 17 | 18 - 64 | 65 and over | Total |
| People who are deaf with speech                |   |        |         |             |       |
| People who are deaf without speech             |   |        |         |             |       |
| People who are hard of hearing                 |   |        |         |             |       |
| People with physical disabilities              |   |        |         |             |       |
| People with mental health problems             |   |        |         |             |       |
| People with learning disabilities              |   |        |         |             |       |
| All persons with additional disability – Total |   |        |         |             |       |

## Appendix 5: Council Level Tables

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Table B1:  | Number of people registered as blind as at 31 March 2014, by age band   |
| Table PS1: | Number of people registered as partially sighted as at 31 March 2014, by age band   |
| Table B2:  | Number of new blind registrations in the year ending 31 March 2014, by age band   |
| Table PS2: | Number of new partially sighted registrations in the year ending 31 March 2014, by age band                               |
| Table B3:  | Number of people registered blind with an additional disability by additional disability, as at 31 March 2014             |
| Table PS3: | Number of people registered partially sighted with an additional disability by additional disability, as at 31 March 2014 |
| Table B4:  | Number of people registered blind with an additional disability by age band, as at 31 March 2014                          |
| Table PS4: | Number of people registered partially sighted with an additional disability by age band, as at 31 March 2014              |

**Published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre  
Part of the Government Statistical Service**

**Responsible Statistician**

Katharine Robbins, Programme Manager

ISBN 978-1-78386-182-8

This publication may be requested in large print or other formats.

---

**For further information**

**[www.hscic.gov.uk](http://www.hscic.gov.uk)**

**0845 300 6016**

**[enquiries@hscic.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hscic.gov.uk)**

Copyright © 2014 Health and Social Care Information Centre. All rights reserved.

This work remains the sole and exclusive property of the Health and Social Care Information Centre and may only be reproduced where there is explicit reference to the ownership of the Health and Social Care Information Centre.

This work may be re-used by NHS and government organisations without permission.