

Factsheet – Transport

- The percentage of disabled people experiencing any difficulties in using transport related to their health problem or disability decreased from 27.2% in 2005 to 25.4% in 2006.¹
- Mobility difficulties² tend to affect older people more. 45% of those aged 70 and over experience mobility difficulties, compared with 5% of those aged 16 to 49. Rates are also higher among women than men.
- Adults who live in the poorest fifth of households are five times as likely to have mobility difficulties as those in the wealthiest fifth.
- Adults with mobility difficulties make a third fewer trips on average than those without.
- Two thirds of respondents with a mobility difficulty say they do not have a difficulty getting in or out of a car.
 - However, people with mobility difficulties are more than twice as likely as those without to live in a household with no car, regardless of their age.
 - 48% of people with mobility difficulties aged 17 and over hold a full UK driving licence, compared to 75% of those without mobility difficulties.

Adults who said they had difficulty using local bus services were asked what problems they had with this and whether they used local buses at all.

- Two-thirds said they had difficulty getting to the bus stop, and a similar proportion said they had difficulty in getting on or off buses. Just over half cited difficulty with waiting at the bus stop.
- 69% said they did not use local buses at all.³
- The number of parking badges for disabled people (Blue Badges) on issue in England rose by 4 per cent over the period 31 March 2006 to 31 March 2007. It now stands at 2.3 million.

¹ ONS Omnibus Survey

² Mobility difficulties is defined as anybody who has a disability or long standing illness that makes it difficult to either a) go out on foot or b) use local buses.

³ All the above data is collected from Department for Transport's "Health Related Travel Difficulties – Personal Travel Factsheet – January 2007" – and is based on the 2005 NTS survey.

- The North West has more badges per head of population than any other region. Local Authorities in the North West have currently issued 60 badges per 1,000 people, compared with a national average (in England) of 46 per 1,000 people.⁴
- We have seen a continued increase in the percentage of buses with low floor wheel chair access. In 2001/02 this figure stood at 28.2%, this figure rose to 50.0% in 2005/6 and further still to 57.5% in 2006/7.⁵
- In 2006, 59% of disabled rail passengers were satisfied facilities at the train station met with their needs, and 67% were satisfied with the trains themselves met with their needs.
- 80% of rail passengers who require special arrangements to travel by rail were satisfied with the booking process; however this drops to 50% when looking at how these arrangements were carried out on the day.⁶

⁴ Information on Parking Badges from the Department for Transport's "Parking Badges for Disabled People 2007 – supplementary document"

⁵ Department for Transport's Annual Sample Survey of Bus Operators.

⁶ Data on the last two bullets is taken from the National Rail Passenger Survey, Spring 2006.