

## ODI MONTHLY RESEARCH SUMMARY – MARCH 07

Please find below the ODI Social Research Team's monthly summary of published disability related research. The aim is to disseminate briefing on new disability research publications according to key ODI themes such as; Young People, Human Rights, Employment, Independent Living and Older People.

This summary may not cover all disability related research reports of interest published in the last month. If you feel there is an important report I have missed please forward to me and I will include in the next summary - end April 07. Please also remember to send me details of any new research reports you receive that may be included in future summaries.

[**Note** - The views expressed in these reports are not necessarily those held by the ODI. Inclusion of reports in the ODI monthly summary cannot be taken as acceptance of their methodological reliability]

***Public Bodies' Response to the Disability Equality Duty: An Audit of Compliance with the Requirement to Publish a Disability Equality Scheme.***  
By Ipsos-Mori on behalf of ODI.

<http://www.officefordisability.gov.uk/publications/>

This audit report provides findings, broken down by sector, as to how many public authorities have published a Disability Equality Scheme (DES) and the percentage of authorities who have actively involved disabled people (a key requirement of the new duty) in the production of the scheme. Key findings include:

- 72 per cent of public authorities covered by the audit were found to have published a DES.
- From reviewing a random sample of published DES, 75% contained evidence the authority had involved disabled people in its production. On this basis around 54% of all authorities covered in the audit are estimated to have a published a DES that contained evidence of involving disabled people.
- Public sectors with the highest level of compliance were Ministerial Government Departments and Higher Education institutions. The lowest were the 'Cultural and Countryside sector' and 'Other Central Government Bodies' (for example, executive agencies and regulators).
- Authorities who had involved disabled people were most likely to have involved disabled customers/service users (87%) or disabled members of staff (84%)
- The most common method of involving disabled was via surveys/ focus groups of disabled customers (70%) or through regular working workshops (57%).

***My School, My Family. Telling it Like it is.***  
***A study detailing the experiences of disabled children, young people and their families in Great Britain in 2006.***

University of Birmingham on behalf of the Disability Rights Commission (DRC)

[http://www.drc.gov.uk/library/research/education/my\\_school\\_my\\_family\\_my\\_life.aspx](http://www.drc.gov.uk/library/research/education/my_school_my_family_my_life.aspx)

This report draws on the main findings and recommendations from four linked projects (2004–6) on the experiences of disabled children, young people and their families. This report focuses mainly on the findings from the individual and group case studies of disabled children and young people which made up the fourth and

final project. These case studies were gathered in England, Scotland and Wales from a range of mainstream primary and secondary schools, specialist units within mainstream schools, colleges of further education and special schools. The findings are reported under five main themes:

- independence and autonomy
- educational services and environments
- knowledge and assertion of rights
- attitudes, and
- ambitions and aspirations.

***Work-rich and work-poor: three decades of change.***

By Richard Berthoud, Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex. Research supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/1996.asp>

The number of people in employment is higher now than in the mid-1970s. There have, though, been substantial changes in the distribution of jobs between social groups. These trends have had important consequences for equality and inequality, and for the number of non-working families in Britain. The research, based on detailed analysis of survey data over time found:

- Around **two million adults** (aged 20-59) who are **in work** today would probably not have had a job in the mid-1970s.
- On the other hand, there are another **two million adults** who would have been likely to have had a job thirty years ago, but are now **out of work**.
- Those whose chances have deteriorated most are **disabled men** with poor educational qualifications and no working partner.

Other findings on disability, based on analysis of the General Household Survey,<sup>1</sup> include:

Disabled men have always had poorer job chances than other men, and this disadvantage widened somewhat over the period. A rapidly increasing proportion of disabled men describe their market position as 'long-term sick and disabled', rather than 'unemployed'. Women – with or without children – were less affected by disability than men in the 1970s, but this has become an increasingly important disadvantage for women, relative to their generally improving position. Disabled people with poor qualifications are much more disadvantaged by their impairments than those with a good educational background, and this gap has also widened. Disabled people seem to be highly sensitive to regional variations in overall employment rates, but are little affected by cyclical labour market changes from year to year. The trend was continuously adverse to disabled people between 1974 and 1996, but flattened out at that point.

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<sup>1</sup> Like many general purpose surveys, the GHS data analysed for this research does not have strictly defined questions about disability and impairment. The analysis uses 'limiting long-standing illness' as a broad indicator of disability, although this has been shown to understate the extent of disadvantage experienced by people with serious impairments.