

Social Security Scotland Statistics

Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance statistics to November 2024

Key figures

In Scotland in November 2024, there were:

- 64,288 carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance
- 69,823 people in receipt of Disability Living Allowance
- 153,179 people in receipt of Attendance Allowance
- 862 people in receipt of Severe Disablement Allowance.

Frequency of publications

The next publication, covering Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance, at February 2025 will be released in August 2025. Carer's Allowance Supplement April 2025 eligibility date will be released in August 2025.

Under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics¹ we publish a timetable of statistical releases for the twelve months ahead².

¹ The Code of Practice for Statistics is available on the [UK Statistics Authority website](#).

² The forthcoming publication timetable is available on the [Social Security Scotland website](#).

Introduction

This publication provides information on recipients of Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance at November 2024.

All tables and charts relating to this publication are available in an Excel workbook on the [Social Security Scotland statistics website](#).

This publication does not include an update on recipients of the Carer's Allowance Supplement. This supplement is given to people in Scotland who receive Carer's Allowance on the Carer's Allowance Supplement eligibility dates. These are two dates each year - one in April and one in October - which are set by the Scottish Government. The latest statistics for Carer's Allowance Supplement is available on Social Security Scotland statistics website. Carer's Allowance Supplement statistics will be updated for the April 2025 eligibility date in August 2025.

The Scotland Act 2016³ gives Scottish Parliament powers over Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance, which had been administered to Scottish clients by the Department for Work and Pensions. In September 2018, Carer's Allowance became the first of these benefits to have responsibility transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions to Social Security Scotland, the executive agency of Scottish Government which is responsible for delivering the social security benefits for Scotland. From 1 April 2020, executive and legal responsibilities for Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance were also transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions to Scottish Ministers.

There is a transitional period to allow administration of these benefits to be transferred, during which the Department for Work and Pensions will continue to administer Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance on Social Security Scotland's behalf. Severe Disablement Allowance is closed for new applications and so the Department for Work and Pensions will continue to administer it on the Scottish Government's behalf while individuals remain in receipt. The statistics for Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance are being published as official statistics in accordance with Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and the Code of Practice for Statistics⁴ to ensure they meet high standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

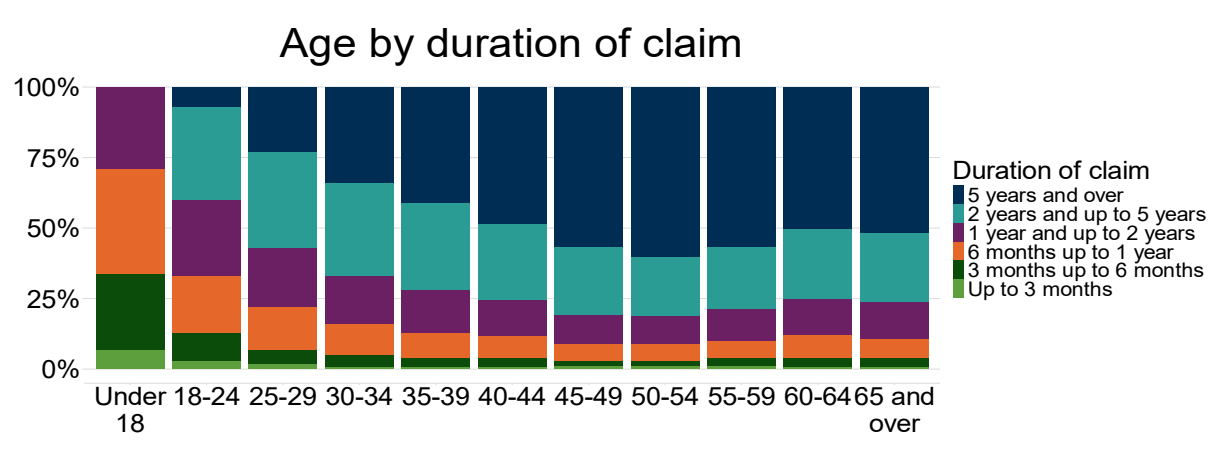
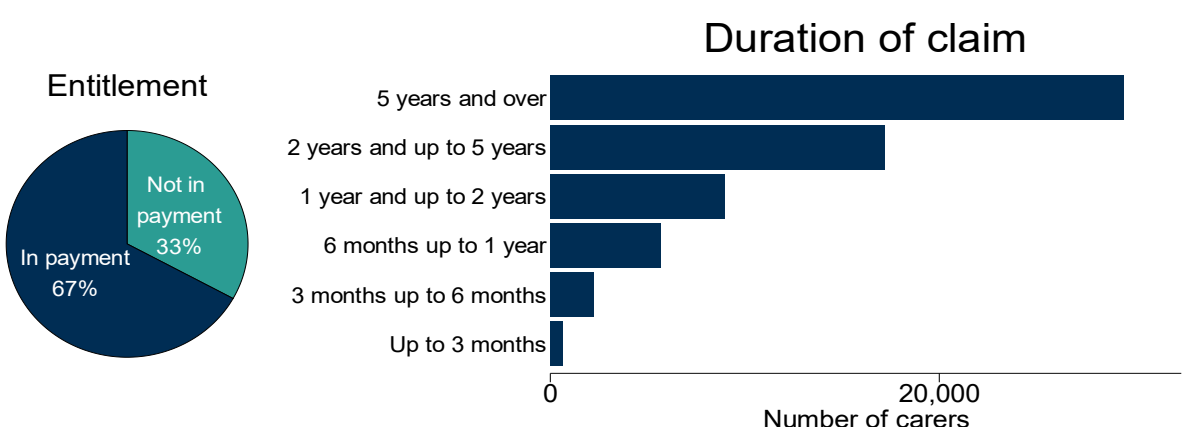
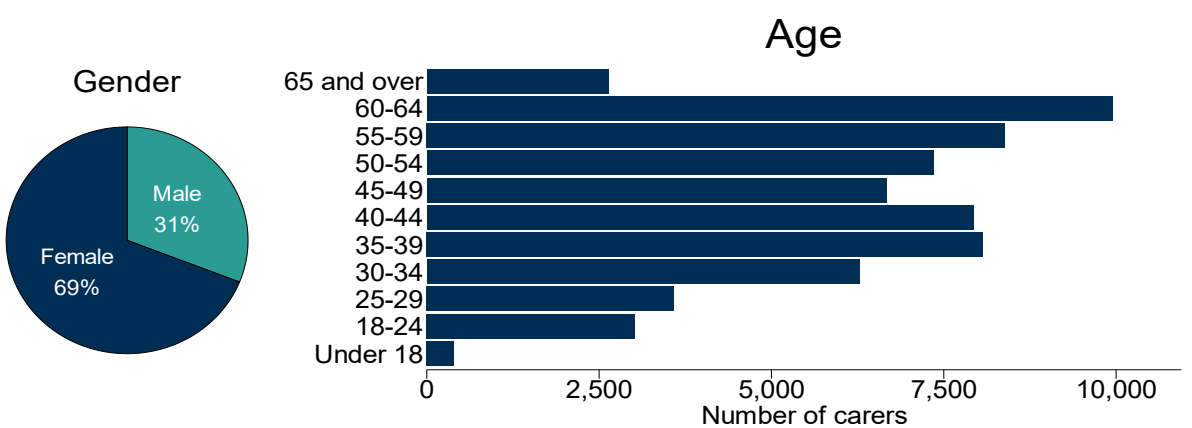
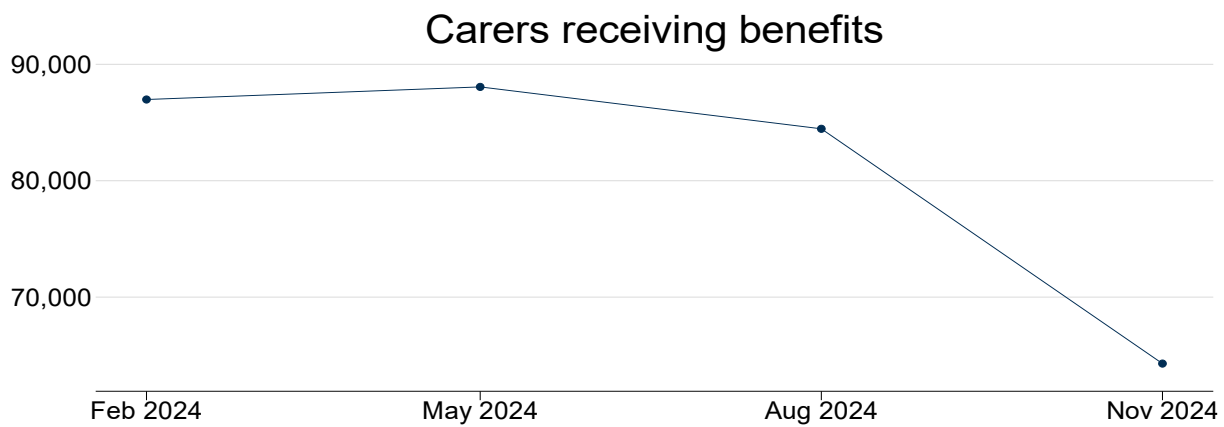
³ Information is provided on the [Scotland Act 2016 website](#).

⁴ The Code of Practice for Statistics is available on the [UK Statistics Authority website](#).

Carer's Allowance at November 2024

- In November 2024, there were 64,288 carers in Scotland in receipt of Carer's Allowance. This is a decrease, of around 24%, compared to the last quarter when there were 84,460 carers at August 2024 **[Carer's Allowance Table S1]**. It is a decrease of 25% since November 2023 when there were 85,597 carers. Much of the decrease is attributed to planned case transfers to Carer Support Payment.
- A further 31,232 carers were entitled to Carer's Allowance but did not receive payments **[Carer's Allowance Table S1]**. This is typically people who are entitled to Carer's Allowance but are also eligible for another benefit such as a State Pension with a value equal to or exceeding their weekly rate of Carer's Allowance, which they receive instead of Carer's Allowance (see [Background Note](#)).
- Around 69% of carers in receipt of payment were female and 31% were male **[Carer's Allowance Table S2]**.
- Of the carers in receipt of payments, 43% were aged 50 or over, whereas only 12% were under the age of 30 **[Carer's Allowance Table S3]**.
- Around 73% of carers have been receiving Carer's Allowance payments for two years or more. In total, 46% have been receiving Carer's Allowance payments for five years or more **[Carer's Allowance Table S4]**.

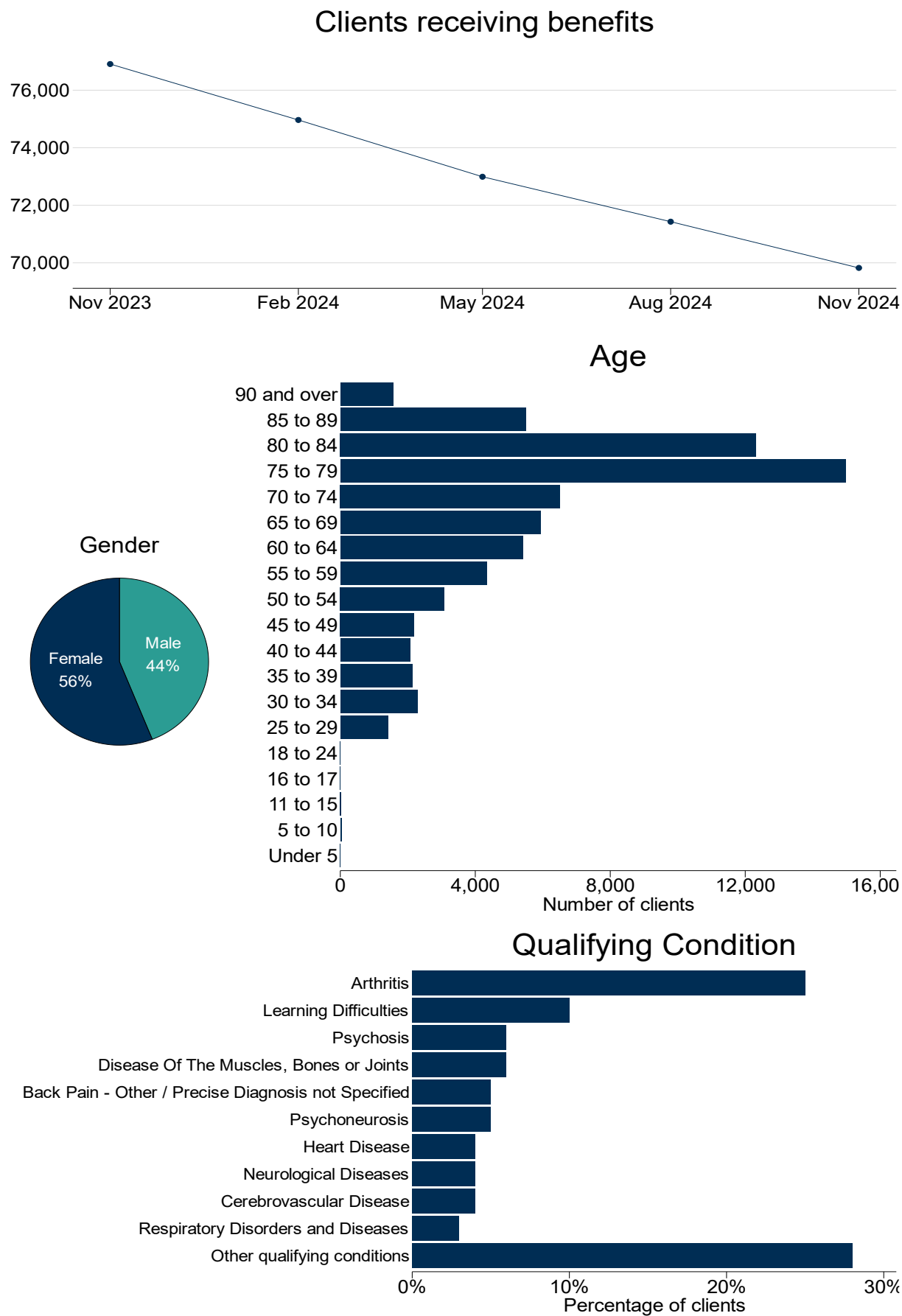
Summary Panel: Carer's Allowance at November 2024



Disability Living Allowance at November 2024

- At November 2024, there were 69,823 people in Scotland in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. This is a decrease of 2% since the last quarter when there were 71,430 at August 2024. It is a decrease of 9% since November 2023 when there were 76,910 **[Disability Living Allowance Table S1]**. Much of the decrease is attributed to planned case transfers to Child Disability Payment.
- From 29 August 2022, some people who get Disability Living Allowance for adults from the Department for Work and Pensions started to have their award transferred to Adult Disability Payment.
- Around 56% of Disability Living Allowance clients were female and 44% were male. **[Disability Living Allowance Table S2]**.
- Less than 1% of Disability Living Allowance clients are aged under 16, and 67% are aged 65 and over **[Disability Living Allowance Table S3]**.
- Only 32% of Disability Living Allowance clients are aged between 16-64 **[Disability Living Allowance Table S3]**.
- Nearly all clients have been receiving Disability Living Allowance payments for five years or more. The benefit is now closed to new applications from those aged 16 and over meaning the duration of claim of each will continue to rise (see [Background Note](#)) **[Disability Living Allowance Table S4]**.
- Around 74% of Disability Living Allowance clients received both the mobility and care element **[Disability Living Allowance Table S8]**.
- Of all the Disability Living Allowance clients, in terms of the care award, 29% receive the highest rate, 32% are on the middle rate, 23% are on the lowest rate and 16% do not receive any care award **[Disability Living Allowance Table S5]**.
- Of all the Disability Living Allowance clients, in terms of the mobility award, 64% receive the higher rate, 26% receive the lower rate and 10% do not receive any mobility award **[Disability Living Allowance Table S6]**.
- The most common disabling condition was 'Arthritis' which accounted for 25% of clients, followed by 'Learning Difficulties' which accounted for 10% of clients **[Disability Living Allowance Table S7]**.

Summary Panel: Disability Living Allowance at November 2024

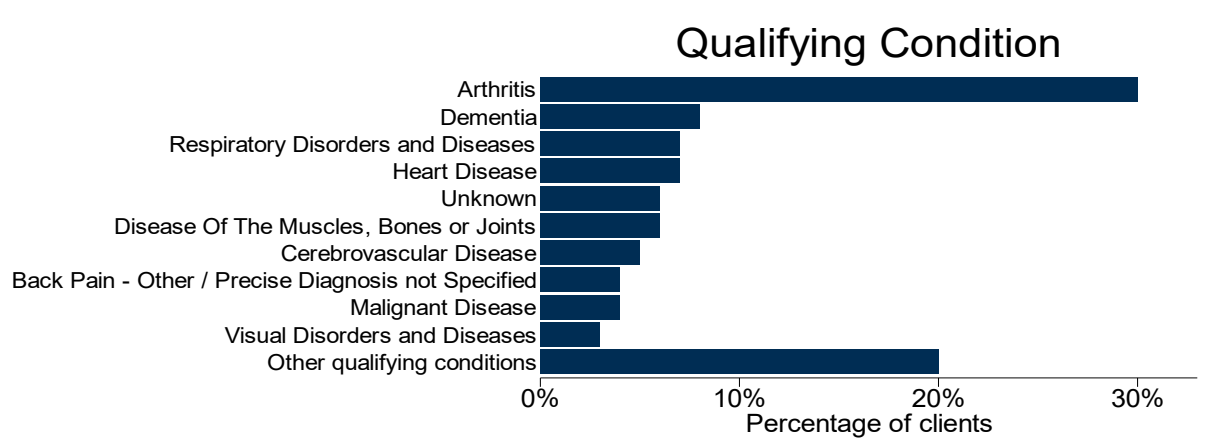
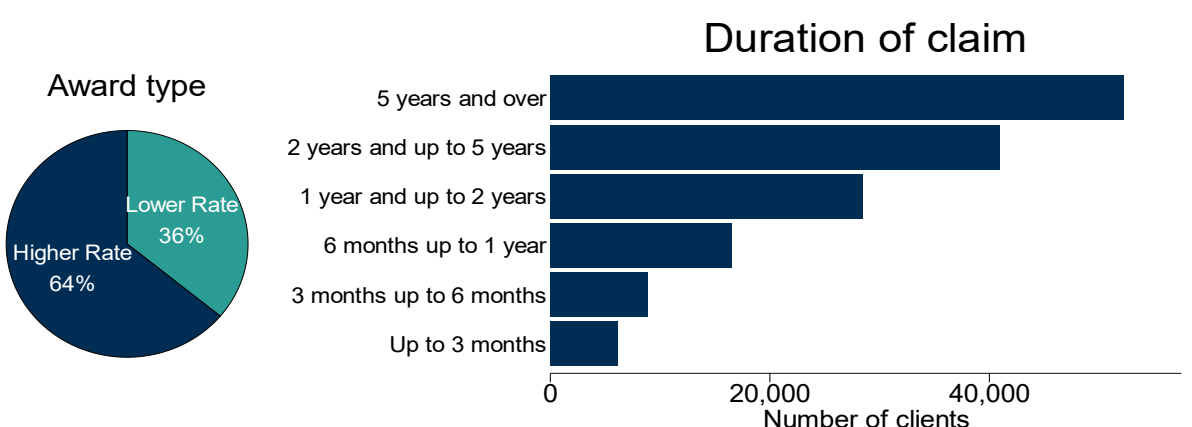
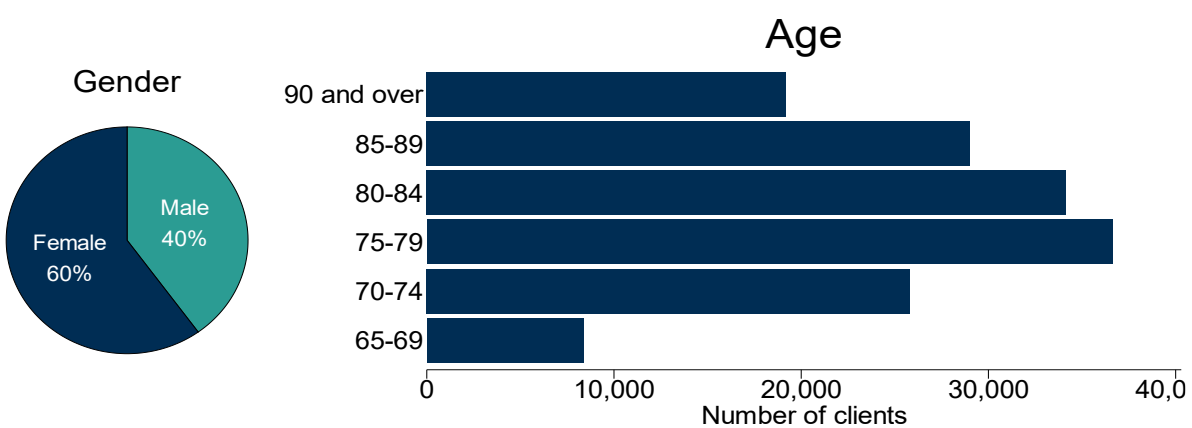
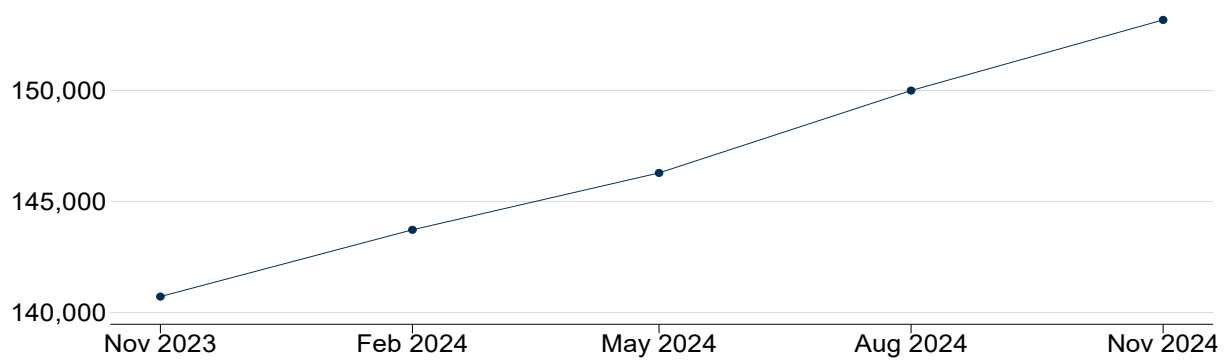


Attendance Allowance at November 2024

- At November 2024, there were 153,179 people in Scotland in receipt of Attendance Allowance. This is an increase of 2% since the last quarter when there were 149,997 at August 2024. It is an increase of 9% since November 2023 when there were 140,716 [**Attendance Allowance Table S1**].
- A further 17,045 people were entitled to Attendance Allowance but did not receive a payment [**Attendance Allowance Table S1**]. People may be entitled to Attendance Allowance but not receive payment because, for example, they are residing in Alternative Accommodation (e.g. a publicly funded hospital, care home or prison).
- Around 60% of Attendance Allowance clients were female and 40% were male [**Attendance Allowance Table S2**].
- Of the Attendance Allowance clients in receipt of payments, 54% were aged 80 or over [**Attendance Allowance Table S3**].
- In total, 61% of clients have been receiving Attendance Allowance payments for two years or more, with 34% receiving the payment for five years or more [**Attendance Allowance Table S4**].
- Around 64% of Attendance Allowance clients received the higher rate and 36% received the lower rate [**Attendance Allowance Table S5**].
- The most common disabling condition was 'Arthritis', which accounted for 30% of clients, followed by 'Dementia and Respiratory Disorders and Diseases', which accounted for 8% and 7% respectively of clients [**Attendance Allowance Table S6**].

Summary Panel: Attendance Allowance at November 2024

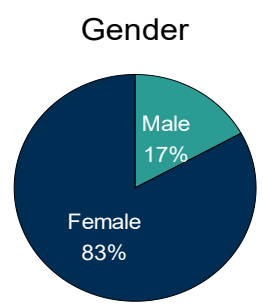
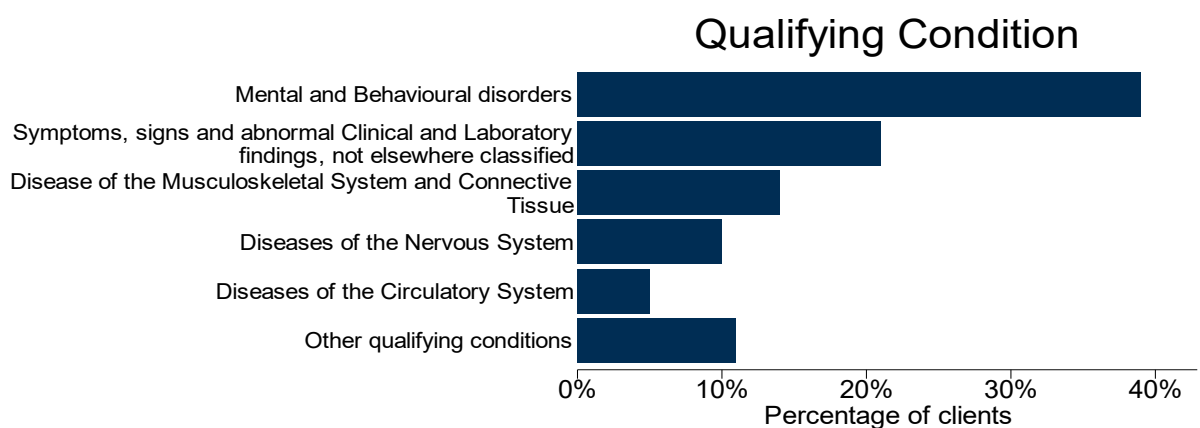
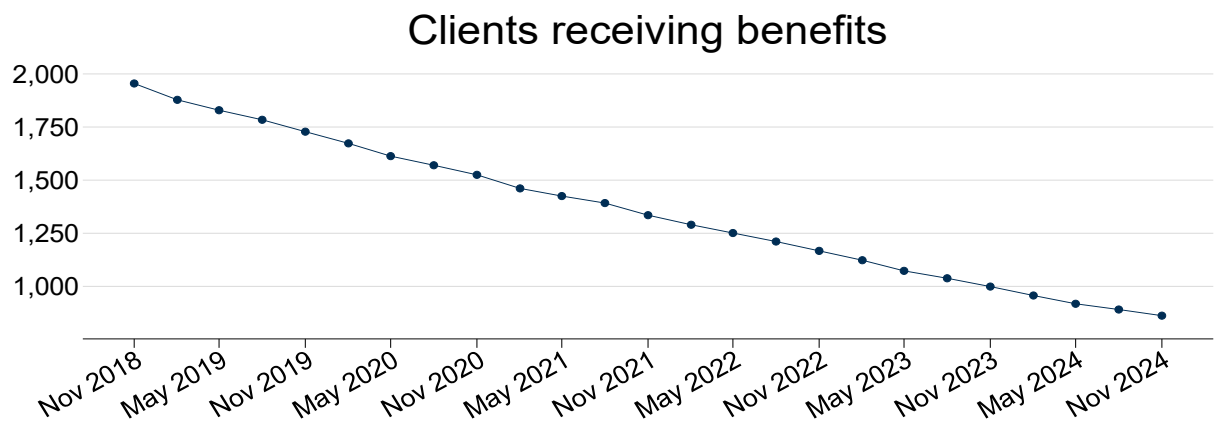
Clients receiving benefits



Severe Disablement Allowance at November 2024

- At November 2024, there were 862 people in Scotland in receipt of Severe Disablement Allowance. This is a decrease of 3% since the last quarter when there were 891 at August 2024. It is a decrease of 56% since November 2018 when there were 1,955 people in receipt [**Severe Disablement Allowance Table S1**]. Severe Disablement Allowance is a closed benefit, so the caseload will continue to decrease each year. For further detail, see the [Background Note](#).
- Around 83% of Severe Disablement Allowance clients were female and 17% were male [**Severe Disablement Allowance Table S2**].
- The most common disabling condition was 'Mental and Behavioural disorders' which accounted for 39% of clients, followed by 'Symptoms, signs and abnormal Clinical and Laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified' which accounted for 21% of clients [**Severe Disablement Allowance Table S3**].

Summary Panel: Severe Disablement Allowance at November 2024



Background to Carer's Allowance

Carer's Allowance is for people who spend at least 35 hours a week providing regular care to someone who has a disability. It was introduced on 5th July 1976.

To be eligible for Carer's Allowance:

- The person being cared for must already get one of these benefits:
 - Personal Independence Payment - daily living component
 - Disability Living Allowance - the middle or highest care rate
 - Attendance Allowance
 - Constant Attendance Allowance at or above the normal maximum rate with an Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit
 - Constant Attendance Allowance at the basic (full day) rate with a War Disablement Pension
 - Armed Forces Independence Payment
 - Child Disability Payment - the middle or highest care rate
 - Adult Disability Payment - either rate of the daily living component.
- In 2024/2025, the period covered by this publication, the carer must have earned no more than £151 a week after tax and expenses. Expenses can include:
 - 50% of the carer's pension contributions
 - some of the costs of caring for the carer's children or the disabled person while they are at work.
- And the carer must also:
 - be 16 or over;
 - spend at least 35 hours a week caring for someone;
 - have been in England, Scotland or Wales for at least two of the last three years (this does not apply if you're a refugee or have humanitarian protection status);
 - normally live in England, Scotland or Wales, or live abroad as a member of the armed forces;
 - not be in full-time education;
 - not be studying for 21 hours a week or more;
 - not be subject to [immigration control](#).

Some carers might still be eligible if they are moving to or already living in another [EEA country or Switzerland](#).

Some carers are entitled to receive Carer's Allowance because they satisfy the conditions listed above, but they do not actually receive a payment. This may occur as a temporary suspension of the Carer's Allowance payments, if the client is in hospital. Otherwise, this is because the client receives another benefit instead (e.g. Incapacity Benefit for people of working age, or State Pension for people of State Pension age) which equals or exceeds the weekly rate of Carer's Allowance.

Where the overlapping benefit paid is less than the weekly rate of Carer's Allowance, only the amount of Carer's Allowance which exceeds the amount of the overlapping benefit is paid. Carers who are on low incomes and entitled to Carer's Allowance (whether in payment or not) receive extra money with their Income Support/Jobseeker's Allowance/ Pension Credit/Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit.

Carer Support Payment is replacing Carer's Allowance for carers in Scotland. Carer Support Payment was launched at the end of 2023 in the pilot local authority areas of Dundee City, Perth and Kinross and Na h-Eileanan Siar (the Western Isles). The benefit was available nationally from autumn 2024.

Carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance in Scotland do not need to apply for Carer Support Payment. Transfer of cases to Carer Support Payment started from February 2024.

Background to Disability Living Allowance

Disability Living Allowance is for people who became disabled before the age of 65 and who have extra care or mobility needs (difficulty getting around).

It is made up of two components, care and mobility. A person might be eligible for one or both components. The rates for each are found in the tables below.

The value of payments for Disability Living Allowance were uprated in April 2024. The below tables indicate the value of the payments for the period covered by the publication (the 2023/2024 rates) and latest year following uprating (2024/2025).

Care component	Weekly amount		Level of help needed
	2023/24	2024/25	
Lowest Rate	£26.90	£28.70	Help for some of the day or with preparing cooked meals
Middle Rate	£68.10	£72.65	Frequent help or constant supervision during the day, supervision at night or someone to help while they're on dialysis
Highest Rate	£101.75	£108.55	Help or supervision throughout both day and night, or they're terminally ill
Mobility component	Weekly amount		Level of help needed
	2023/24	2024/25	
Lower Rate	£26.90	£28.70	They can walk but need help and or supervision when outdoors
Higher Rate	£71.00	£75.75	They cannot walk, can only walk a short distance without severe discomfort, could become very ill if they try to walk or they're blind, severely sight impaired

From 3 April 2023, the Department for Work and Pensions changed the eligibility for Special Rules for End of Life, allowing those who have a progressive disease from which death can reasonably be expected within 12 months to apply, where previously Special Rules for End of Life were only applicable for people with 6 months or less to live. The data in this publication for Disability Living Allowance covers to November 2023 and as such the changed rules will apply to some clients accordingly.

Those meeting the eligibility for Special Rules for End of Life automatically qualify for the higher rate care component from birth. They can also qualify for the mobility component if they satisfy the normal rules.

Disability Living Allowance can be awarded for a fixed or an indefinite period. People can continue to receive the allowance after reaching age 65 if they continue to satisfy the entitlement conditions.

From 8 April 2013, the Department for Work and Pensions started to replace Disability Living Allowance for working age people with Personal Independence Payment for new applications.

From 28 October 2013, the Department for Work and Pensions has been inviting Disability Living Allowance working age recipients to apply for Personal Independence Payment if:

- the department received information about a change in care or mobility needs which meant their award had to be renewed;
- the client's fixed term award was due to expire;
- children turned 16 years old (unless they have been awarded Disability Living Allowance under the special rules for end of life);
- or the client chose to apply for Personal Independence Payment instead of Disability Living Allowance.

From July 2015, the remaining Disability Living Allowance working age recipients have started to be invited to apply for Personal Independence Payment. However, since 1 April 2020, the Department for Work and Pensions have stopped proactively sending these invites to Disability Living Allowance working age recipients who live in Scotland.

Child Disability Payment replaces Disability Living Allowance for Children in Scotland and launched nationally on 22 November 2021.

Adult Disability Payment, the Scottish replacement benefit for Personal Independence Payment, received applications as part of a pilot from 21 March 2022. This was followed by a gradual rollout before national launch on 29 August 2022.

Information on eligibility for Child Disability Payment and Adult Disability Payment can be found in the background notes of their respective statistics publications on the [Social Security Scotland](https://www.socialsecurityscotland.gov.uk/) website.

Background to Attendance Allowance

Attendance Allowance is for people of State Pension age or older with a disability that is severe enough that they need someone to help look after them. For example, the individual may need help with washing, dressing or eating, during the day or at night. Attendance Allowance is currently administered by the Department for Work and Pensions on behalf of the Scottish Government under agency agreement.

To be eligible for Attendance Allowance, an individual must have reached [State Pension age](#) and have:

- a physical disability (including sensory disability, for example blindness), a mental disability (including learning difficulties), or both
- a disability that is severe enough for the individual to need help caring for themselves or someone to supervise them, for their own or someone else's safety
- have needed help for at least 6 months (unless they are terminally ill and might have 12 months or less to live)

If a person is terminally ill, i.e. they are not expected to live for more than 12 months, there are 'special rules' (Please note that the Department for Work and Pensions changed this definition from 6 months to 12 months from April 2023 onwards.)

- there's no qualifying period for how long they have had the illness
- if eligible, they will automatically get the higher rate of Attendance Allowance.

Attendance Allowance is usually paid every 4 weeks at 2 different rates. This depends on the level of assistance or supervision needed.

The value of payments for Attendance Allowance were uprated in April 2024. The below tables indicate the value of the payments for the period covered by the publication (the 2023/2024 rates) and the latest year following uprating.

Rate	Weekly amount		Level of help needed
	2023/24	2024/25	
Lower Rate	£68.10	£72.65	Frequent help or constant supervision during the day, or supervision at night
Higher Rate	£101.75	£108.55	Help or supervision throughout both day and night, or they're terminally ill

Pension Age Disability Payment, the Scottish replacement benefit for Attendance Allowance, received applications as part of a pilot from 21 October 2024. This was followed by a gradual rollout before national launch on 22 April 2025.

A person cannot receive Attendance Allowance if they already have an award of [Disability Living Allowance](#), [Personal Independence Payment](#), [Adult Disability Payment](#) or [Pension Age Disability Payment](#).

Background to Severe Disablement Allowance

Severe Disablement Allowance is for people below the State Pension age who cannot work for 28 weeks in a row because of illness or disability.

Severe Disablement Allowance is administered by the Department for Work and Pensions on behalf of the Scottish Government under agency agreement. It was closed to new entrants and replaced by Incapacity Benefit in April 2001, which is now replaced by Employment and Support Allowance.

Recipients that are now over the State Pension Age will continue to receive Severe Disablement Allowance unless their circumstances change. Recipients that are still under the State Pension Age are now being asked to undertake a re-assessment of their award by:

- completing a questionnaire and returning it by the deadline
- potentially attending a face-to-face Work Capability Assessment.

If the re-assessment shows they cannot work, they will be transferred automatically onto [Employment and Support Allowance](#). They will continue to get Severe Disablement Allowance until that date.

Since Severe Disablement Allowance is a closed benefit, the caseload will continue to decrease each year.

A person's Severe Disablement Allowance is not usually affected if they:

- do volunteer work
- work for less than 16 hours a week on average and earn up to £183.50 a week (in 2024/2025)
- work and earn up to £183.50 a week, if the work is done as part of a treatment programme or is supervised by someone from a local council or voluntary organisation
- work and earn up to £183.50 a week and are exempt from personal capability assessment.

About the data

How Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance data is collected

The Department for Work and Pensions holds information on those in payment of Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance, and publishes quarterly statistics on the [UK Government website](#).

The Department for Work and Pensions produce summary tables for Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance in Scotland based on the data that are published in these quarterly statistical summaries and provide these to Scottish Government for publication.

Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance data quality

Information about the methodology used to produce Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance statistics and the quality of the statistics is available on the [UK Government website](#).

Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance data are subject to the Department for Work and Pensions' rounding techniques for disclosure control.

Comparisons between Carer's Allowance and Carer's Allowance Supplement Statistics

The eligibility for Carer's Allowance Supplement is dependent on a person being in payment of Carer's Allowance on the eligibility date. The data is therefore similar to the Carer's Allowance statistics published here and by the Department for Work and Pensions⁵. However, there are a number of differences between these two sets of data. The key differences are:

Reference date - Carer's Allowance Supplement data refers to eligibility dates which are in mid-April or mid-October each year. Carer's Allowance data refers to the end of February, May, August or November each year.

Backdating - Carer's Allowance Supplement data is taken from scans carried out around six weeks after each eligibility date, except for the April 2018 eligibility date where the scan was run in August 2018. Therefore the April 2018 data has more than seven months of backdating and all other data has one month of backdating. Carer's Allowance data includes up to four months of backdating.

⁵ Carer's Allowance statistics are published as part of the [Department for Work and Pensions' benefits statistics collection](#).

Eligibility - all those who receive a payment of Carer's Allowance on the eligibility date will receive Carer's Allowance Supplement. This will include eligible carers who subsequently become entitled to a payment, including cases which may have temporarily been suspended from payment. Carer's Allowance data will exclude those who are later found to be ineligible for Carer's Allowance as part of their backdating adjustments.

Geography - the Department for Work and Pensions use different postcode address files to identify those who receive Carer's Allowance who are living in Scottish postcodes.

Further breakdowns of Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance data

The data for Carer's Allowance in Scotland is available in more detail on [Stat-Xplore](#). This includes further information about Personal Independence registrations, payments, mandatory reconsiderations and appeals. There is also data at lower geographies e.g. Local Authority, Census Output Area, Scottish and Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies.

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

☐ are available in more detail through statistics.gov.scot

☒ are available via an alternative route. Summary tables are available at: <https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/publications>

☐ may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact MI@socialsecurity.gov.scot for further information.

☐ cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

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