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People living with a disability in Southampton.
June 2025
Where are we now?

Southampton City Council

Disability and long-term conditions

There is no current single source to establish how many people have disabilities in the city.

The following data sources have been brought together to illustrate the picture of those people **known to have a disability** in the city (**slides 4, 5 and 6**):

- Those known to Adult Social Care
- Those known to Schools/Education
- Those claiming disability living allowance (DLA)

These figures exclude those who not known to Southampton City Council (SCC) services for support or as in receipt of DLA benefits. These unknowns could include people who have long-term health conditions which impact on their mobility and day-to-day living but may not be an SCC service user or meet needs testing to receive a SCC service.

How many people with disabilities (those **known and those estimated unknown**) can be estimated using modelling applied to local population data built from prevalence studies (**slide 7**).

Multiple long-term conditions which impact mobility and day-to-day living increase with age, this is illustrated using GP data for the city (**slide 8**).

Back pain was the most second common condition for disability living allowance in pensioners and this is the most **common cause of disability**, locally and nationally (**slide 9**).

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There are currently **3,659 individuals** known to SCC Adult Social Care as **visually/hearing impaired** and/or with **a physical disability**, living inside and outside the city boundary

Living within the city, there are **3,659** residents known to Adult Social Care as visually/hearing impaired and/or with a physical disability:

- **956** registered **visually impaired**

- **1,336** registered **hearing impaired**

- **1,367** people with general classes of **physical disability**

The figures are for May 2025 - figures for "Physical Support - Access and Mobility only" or "Physical Support - Personal Care support" includes only individuals who are currently receiving long term service

Living outside the city, there are **309 long-term service users** known to Adult Social Care **100** of these **out of city** service users have a **learning disability** as their **primary support reason**

These figures exclude those who are not registered, or those who have long-term health conditions which impact on their mobility and day-to-day living.

There were **372 children** known to the Southampton City Council Education data team with a primary need as **visually/hearing impaired, multi-sensory impairment** and/or with **a physical disability**, attending Southampton mainstream schools (2023/24)

In Southampton maintained and academy schools (including academies and trust-maintained) there are **372** children as visually/hearing impaired and/or with a physical disability:

- **69** who are classed as **visually impaired**

- **104** who are classed as **hearing impaired**

- **7** who are classed as **multi-sensory impaired**

- **179** who are classed with a **physical disability**

These figures exclude those who are home schooled or attending an independent school, children pre-school age or attending college, and Southampton children who attend out of city schools.

Children's vulnerable cohort groups of those children known to Children's Social Care (as of 31/03/2024):

- **500 of 2,059** (24.3%) who are classed as **Children in Need** have a **disability**

- **46 of 276** (16.7%) who are on the **Child Protection Register** have a **disability**

- **98 of 488** (20.1%) who are classed as **Children Looked After** have a **disability**

In **November 2024,** there were **6,663** Southampton residents receiving **Disability Living Allowance (DLA).** **1,002** were **working age adults, 4,283** were **children** (aged under 16) and **1,378** were over aged **65 and over**: (this total may not sum to other figures, due to rounding)

- **4,283 children – highest 3** main disabling condition classifications**;**
    1. Learning difficulties – 2,400 children (56.0%)
    2. Behavioural disorder – 1,010 children (23.6%)
    3. Hyperkinetic syndrome, also known as ADHD - 268 children (6.3%)

- **1,002 working age adults – highest 3** main disabling condition classifications;
    1. Learning difficulties – 300 working age adults (29.9%)
    2. Psychosis – 90 working age adults (9.0%)
    3. Neurological Diseases - 71 working age adults (7.1%)

- **1,378 adults over state pension age –** highest 3 main disabling condition classifications;
    1. Arthritis – 437 adults over state pension age (31.7%)
    2. Back pain – 104 adults over state pension age (7.5%)
    3. Disease of the muscles, bones or joints - 90 adults over state pension age (6.5%)

Estimates and projections of the number of people with **visual impairments, hearing impairments** and **impaired mobility** in Southampton have been produced using national prevalence rates applied to local population data.

Disability by age group and year	2025			2040			Percentage change between 2025 and 2040		
	18 to 64	65+	Total	18 to 64	65+	Total	18 to 64	65+	Total
Visually impaired*	110	1,146	**1,256**	113	1,491	**1,604**	2.7%	30.1%	**27.7%**
Hearing Impaired┬	13,203	22,129	**35,332**	12,877	27,918	**40,795**	-2.5%	26.2%	**15.5%**
Impaired mobility§	7,374	6,728	**14,102**	7,201	8,631	**15,832**	-2.4%	28.3%	**12.3%**

Source: POPPI and PANSI

* Visually impaired -figures for those aged 65 and over are based on people predicted to have a moderate or severe visual impairment, those under 65 is based on people predicted to have a severe visual impairment (from PANSI)
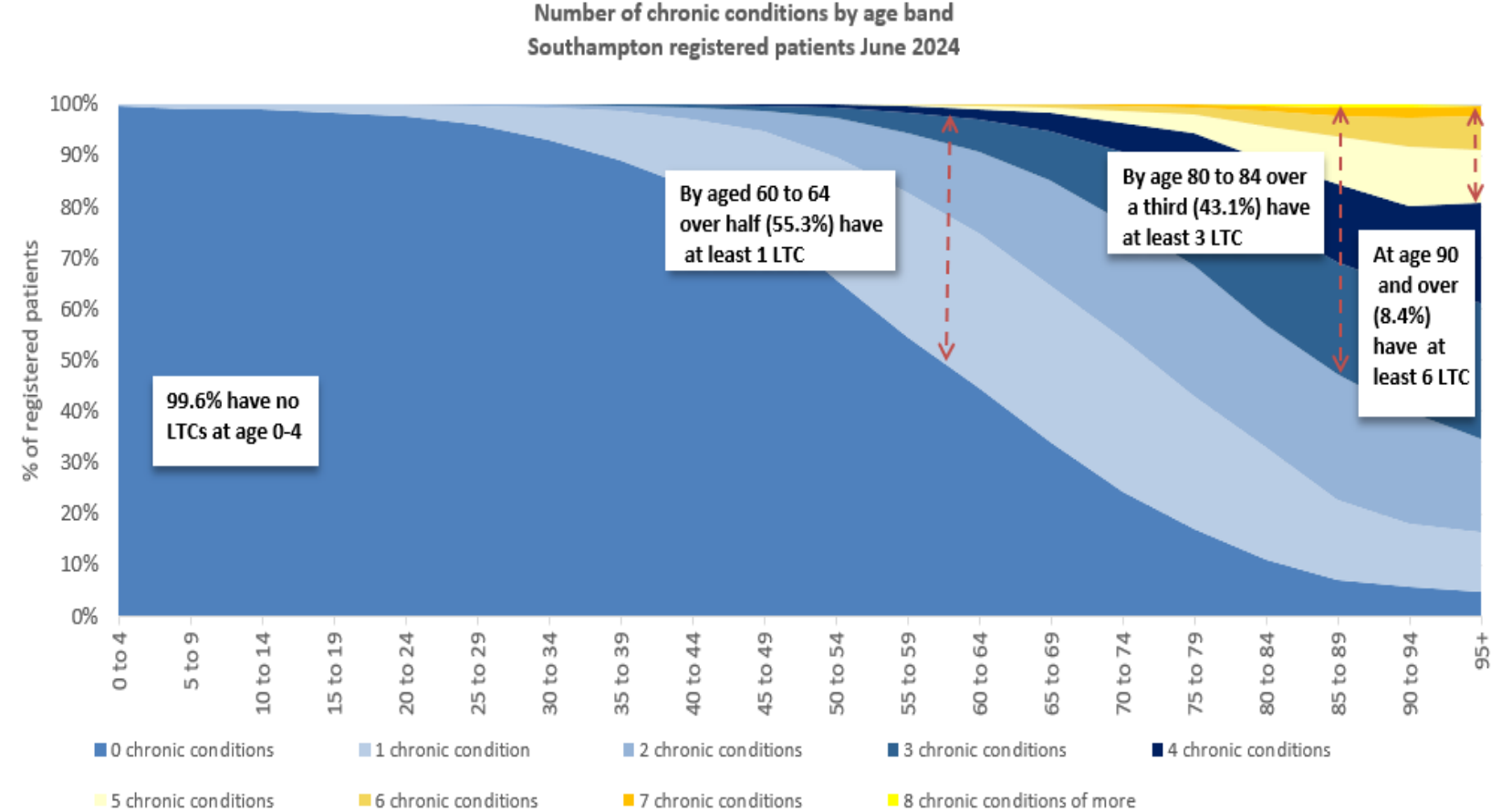
┬ Hearing impairment - predicted to have some hearing loss (from PANSI)

§ Impaired mobility for 18 to 64 years old is assessed against experiencing either moderate, severe or complete difficulty with mobility, and certain activities are limited in any way as a result, such as walking or climbing stairs. Impaired mobility for 65+ years old is defined as Activities include going out of doors and walking down the road; getting up and down stairs; getting around the house on the level; getting to the toilet; getting in and out of bed (from POPPI)

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- An **ageing** population compounds the **prevalence** of **chronic/long-term conditions** as people tend to **develop more long-term or chronic conditions** as they **grow older**

- Age analysis shows multi-morbidity **increases** with **age**, by **60-64 over half** of residents have at least **one** chronic/long-term condition and by **80-84** over a **third** will have at least **three** long term conditions

- Analysis of snap shots from **2024** GP patient data shows **more diagnoses** of **multiple chronic/ long-term conditions earlier** in their **life course** than in **2024** but excludes low back pain

Number of chronic conditions by age band
Southampton registered patients June 2024

By aged 60 to 64 over half (55.3%) have at least 1 LTC

By age 80 to 84 over a third (43.1%) have at least 3 LTC

At age 90 and over (8.4%) have at least 6 LTC

99.6% have no LTCs at age 0-4

- 0 chronic conditions
- 1 chronic condition
- 2 chronic conditions
- 3 chronic conditions
- 4 chronic conditions
- 5 chronic conditions
- 6 chronic conditions
- 7 chronic conditions
- 8 chronic conditions of more

Source: Population Health Management Tool Healtheintent June 2024

Leading causes and risk factors of disability (mid pandemic)

Understanding the **leading causes** and **risks** contributing to **disability** helps **inform** health and wellbeing action

Causes

	Southampton	Portsmouth	Hampshire	Isle of Wight	England
Low back pain	1	1	1	1	1
Depressive disorders	2	2	2	2	2
Headache disorders	3	3	4	5	4
Anxiety disorders	4	5	6	7	5
Diabetes	5	4	3	3	3
Falls	6	6	5	6	6
Other musculoskeletal	7	7	9	9	8
Gynecological diseases	8	8	10	14	10
Age-related hearing loss	9	9	7	4	7
Asthma	10	10	12	10	12

Top 10 Causes attributed to Years Lived with Disability (YLDs)

Low **back pain** and **depressive disorders** are the **two** leading **causes** of disability across the local area and nationally

Risks Factors

	Southampton	Portsmouth	Hampshire	Isle of Wight	England
High body-mass index	1	1	1	1	1
High fasting plasma glucose	2	2	2	2	2
Smoking	3	3	3	3	3
High alcohol use	4	4	4	4	4
Drug use	5	5	8	7	5
Low bone mineral density	6	8	5	5	6
Kidney dysfunction	7	7	6	6	7
Occupational ergonomic	8	6	10	10	10
High processed meat	9	9	9	9	9
High blood pressure	10	10	7	8	8

Top 10 Risk Factors attributed to Years Lived with Disability (YLDs)

High body mass index and **high fasting plasma glucose** are the **two** leading **risk factors** causing disability across local area and nationally