



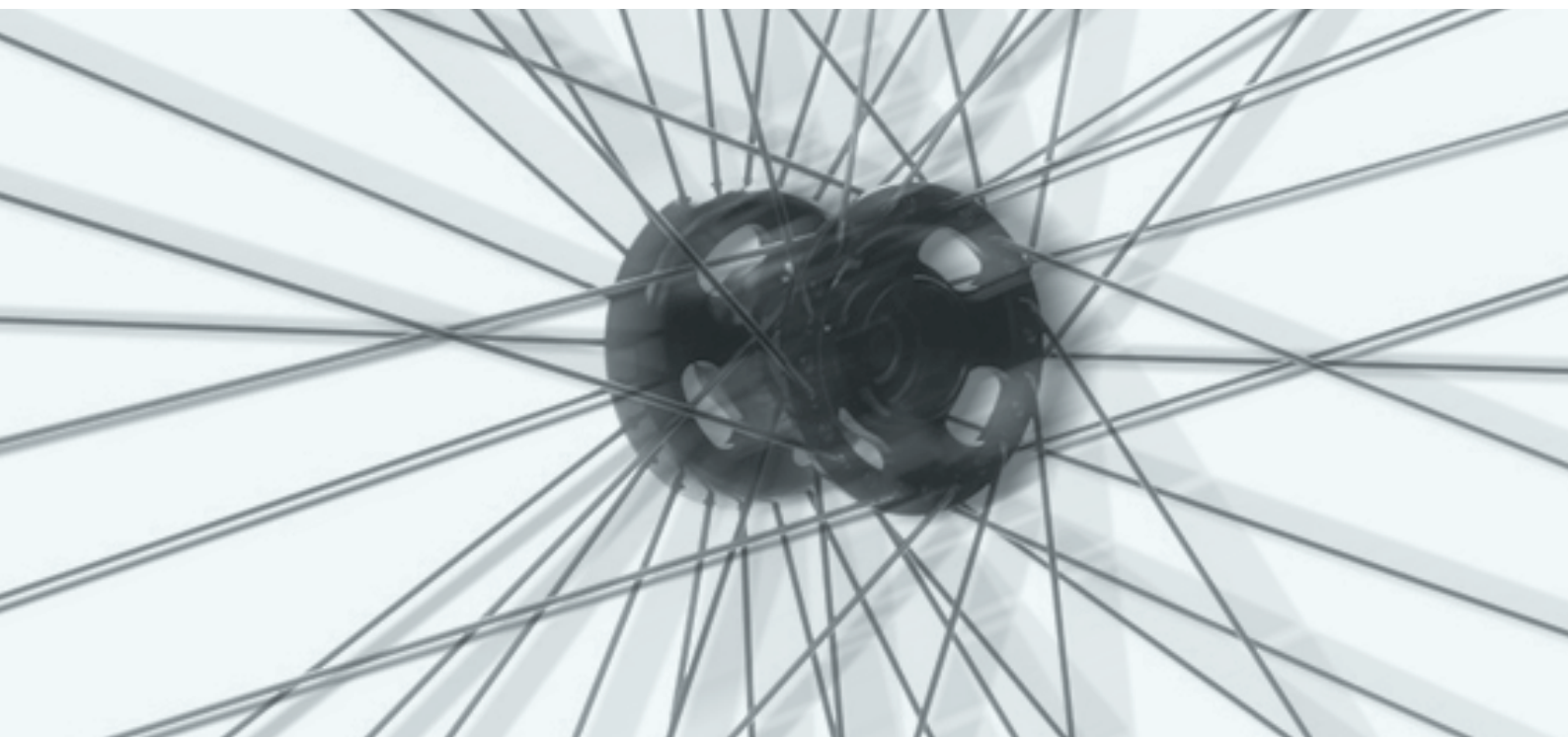
POPULATION PROFILES:DISABILITY

1: THE ESSENTIALS



**“We can’t become straight.
We can’t become white.
But we can become disabled
one day.”**

Mat Fraser on Disability Arts



Disability in Scotland: **the stats**

- On average, **1 in 5** of the Scottish population has a long-term activity-limiting health issue or disability.
- Over **1 in 10** of those are over 60; **7%** are over 70
- **17%** of disabled people are born with their disability

Physical disabilities:

- **Just under 7%** of the Scottish population has a physical disability (just over 330,000 people)
- **Two-thirds** of people with a physical disability are over 60
- Just **1 in 3** physically disabled people in Scotland (120,000) are wheelchair users.

Does where you live matter?

The incidence of types of health condition or disability - deafness, blindness, mental or physical health etc - is broadly the same across Scotland. South West and Central regions of Scotland have a slightly higher prevalence of long-term health conditions or disability than the North or South East. Almost a third of people living in Central and South West Scotland have one or more long-term health conditions or disabilities. Aberdeenshire is the lowest local authority area at 15%. Across all regions, around 1 in 5 disabled people say their day-to-day activities are limited in some way by their health condition or disability.

What difference does disability make?

People with a disability are less likely to have a job, so **households with a disabled adult are more likely to live in poverty: 1 in 5**, compared with **1 in 7**.

In 2011, compared to the population in Scotland, disabled people were:

- More likely to be economically inactive
- More likely to be 'retired'
- Much more likely to have never worked
- More likely to be in the lowest ('D and E') social grades
- More likely to have 'no qualifications'
- More likely to live in a flat, and less likely to have access to a car
- Less likely to drive to work, and more likely to work from home
- At age 16, disabled people are twice as likely as the non-disabled population to be not in education, employment or training...
... three times as likely by age 19

See more information on the [Scottish Government website](#).

What is disability?

We all have a duty to consider the needs of disabled people under the Equality Act 2010.

The language around diversity and disability changes from time to time as we become more alert to issues and get better at understanding, refining and describing what matters.

The Act does not provide an exhaustive checklist that defines disability, and only **half the people** covered by the Act consider themselves disabled.

Based on the Equality Act 2010, a person has a disability if they have a **physical or mental impairment and the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.**

This may include:

- Sensory impairment
- Impairments with fluctuating or recurring effects
- Progressive conditions
- Auto-immune conditions
- Organ specific conditions – respiratory conditions and cardiovascular diseases
- Developmental conditions
- Learning disabilities
- Mental health conditions
- Mental illnesses
- People with HIV infection, cancer or multiple sclerosis automatically meet the disability definition from the day they are diagnosed
- People who have had a disability in the past.

Disability and employment:

Over 1 million disabled people in the UK want to work

- Around **5 out of 10 disabled people** of working age are in work compared with **8 out of 10 non-disabled people**.
- There are **over 1 million** disabled people in the UK who want to work.
- Employment rates vary greatly according to the **type of disability** a person has.
- Disabled people with **mental health** problems have the lowest employment rates of all.
- The employment rate for people with **learning disabilities** is the lowest of all impairment categories, at **21%**.
- Disabled people are **more than twice as likely** to have no qualifications... more than 1 in 4 people as opposed to 1 in 10.

See more [Scottish Government](#) information on their website.



What's changing in the UK:

CHANGE FOR THE GOOD:

An [article](#) by **Jo Verrent** of [Unlimited](#) in **The Guardian** in 2015 highlighted positive developments in arts and disability in the UK and beyond:

- **Unlimited**, the commissioning and support programme for disabled artists, invests **£1.5m** on commissions.
- The **British Council** had 5 works by disabled artists within the 30 chosen for its showcase at the **Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2015**.
- **Graeae Theatre Company**, **Dundee Rep** and **Derby Theatre** have a mid-scale tour with an integrated production of 'Blood Wedding'.
- Jess Thom from **Touretteshero** gives the annual disability lecture at Cambridge University and her show 'Backstage in Biscuit Land' was seen at the **Brighton Festival** before a two-week run via **Battersea Arts Centre**.
- Production company **Vital Xposure**, under the creative leadership of disabled artist Julie McNamara, toured Brazil before heading to Canada to the **Picture This Film Festival** where many films by UK disabled artists were shown.
- A conference in Qatar focused on access and included the first exhibition of disabled artists at the prestigious **Museum of Islamic Art**.

PERCEPTIONS OF DISABILITY IN THE UK (NOT SO GOOD):

Some of the information in Jo's article makes for sobering reading:

In 2014, a survey by [Scope](#) found:

- **two-thirds** of the British public feel uncomfortable talking to disabled people.
- a **third** think disabled people are not as productive as everyone else.
- **four in 10 disabled people** have been denied a job because of an employer's attitude to disability.
- there is extensive evidence of **widespread discrimination and hate crime** against disabled people.

This is **after** 2012 and the improvements in public perception following the Paralympic Games.

Useful resources:

ARTS RESOURCES

- [GFT: For All](#)
- [Disability Arts Online](#)
directory of deaf and disability related links for web-based projects, artists and organisations
- [Disability Arts International](#)
promotes the work of disabled artists across the Globe
- [Unlimited](#) Project
- [DASH](#) a disability led visual arts organisation
- [Attitude is Everything](#) improves deaf and disabled people's access to live music by working in partnership with audiences, artists and the music industry
- [Disability Now](#)
- [British Council Arts](#): short film on [arts and disability in Scotland](#)
- [Earnscliffe Associates](#) disability led consultancy

INTERNATIONAL

- [Arts Now](#)
- [Flynn Center](#)

EQUALITY ACT & DISABILITY

- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Disability and the Act](#)
- [Scottish Public Health Observatory](#)
- [Health Scotland](#)
- [Scottish Government](#)
- [Scottish duties under the Act](#)
- [The Act and Mental Health](#)
- [Glasgow's Learning Toolkit](#)

STATISTICS: DISABILITY IN SCOTLAND

- [Scotland's Census 2011](#)
- [Analysis of Equality Results from the 2011 Census](#)
- [Scottish Household Survey 2014](#)
- [Scottish Government Equality Evidence Finder](#)
- [Learning Disability Statistics](#)
- [Mental Health: key data sources](#)
- [Attitudes to Mental Health in Scotland: Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2013](#)