

**C**2001

**Limiting long- term illness  
in Northern Ireland**

**Census 2001**  
A Report by the  
Equality Commission  
for Northern Ireland  
2006

**Equality Commission**

FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

**Census 2001: Limiting Long-term Illness in Northern Ireland**

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## Executive Summary

### *Population Characteristics*

- In April 2001 the population of Northern Ireland was recorded as just over 1,685,000.
- Approximately 343,000 persons, or one-in-five of the population (20.4%), had a Limiting Long-Term Illness (LLTI).
- The incidence of LLTI was higher among females (21.5%) than males (19.0%).
- The LLTI rate was highest in the Belfast City Council area (24.2%) and lowest in the Ballymena Borough Council area (17.7%).
- Of all ethnic groups, the Irish Traveller community contained the highest proportion of persons with an LLTI (27.5%).
- Due to the older age profile of the Protestant population, the LLTI rate was higher among Protestants (21.2%) than Catholics (19.9%).

### *Health and Care*

- Persons with a LLTI were much less likely to describe their health as good than those without a LLTI (15.5% vs. 83.9%).
- Thirty per cent of households occupied by a person with a LLTI also contained an unpaid carer, compared with 14.9% of households in which there was not a person with a LLTI.

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### ***Economic Activity***

- The economic activity rate of persons with a LLTI (19.7%) was much smaller than the rate for those without a LLTI (73.8%).
- Of the economically active, persons with a LLTI were more likely than those without a LLTI to be working part-time (24.1% vs. 17.7%) or to be unemployed (12.6% vs. 6.2%).
- Persons with a LLTI were much more likely to be economically inactive due to permanent sickness or disability (51.9%) than those without a LLTI (2.3%).
- A smaller proportion of people with a LLTI were in the top four NS-SeC social classes (34.6%) than people without a LLTI (53.1%).

### ***Academic Attainment***

- Persons with a LLTI were much more likely to have no qualifications (69.6%) than those without a LLTI (34.1%).

### ***Home and Car***

- A smaller proportion of persons with an LLTI owned their homes than people who did not have a LLTI (62.6% vs. 77.3%).
- Households which contained a person with a LLTI (67.5%) were less likely to have access to a car than households which did not contain a person with a LLTI (81.5%).

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Overview

The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (the 'Commission') has undertaken a series of analyses of the Northern Ireland Census of Population 2001. The Census asked each person whether they had a "long term illness, health problem or disability which limits your daily activities or the work you can do?" This paper maps similarities and differences between people with and without a Limiting Long-Term Illness (LLTI) in terms of population characteristics, health, caring responsibilities, economic status, academic attainment and housing tenure.

## 1.2 Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

The Commission is an independent public body established under the Northern Ireland Act (1998). It has responsibility for the Disability Discrimination Act (1995), the Equality (Disability, etc.) Northern Ireland Order 2000 a range of other anti-discrimination legislation in Northern Ireland, including Section 75.

The Commission's general duties include:

- working towards the elimination of discrimination
- promoting equality of opportunity and encouraging good practice
- promoting affirmative / positive action
- promoting good relations between persons of different racial groups
- overseeing the implementation and effectiveness of the statutory duty on public authorities.
- keeping the relevant legislation under review

### **1.3 *Equality and the Census***

In order to work towards the elimination of discrimination and promote equality of opportunity in policy and practice, it is helpful to identify what the differences are between persons with and without a limiting long term illness. The Census 2001 provides a rich and reliable source of data on the social and economic position of persons with and without a limiting long term illness in Northern Ireland. Identification of inequalities from the Census will help inform the debate on equality of opportunity.

### **1.4 *Northern Ireland Census of Population 2001***

A Census of Population was carried out in Northern Ireland, England and Wales and Scotland on 29 April 2001. The Northern Ireland Census of Population 2001 (the 'Census') was carried out by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

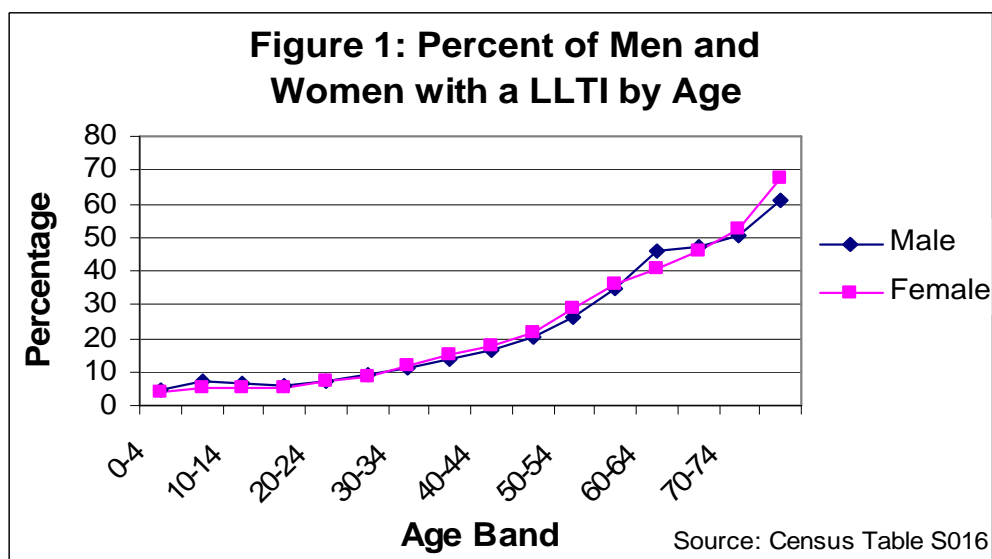
Statistics from the Census can be provided at the level of Northern Ireland, Education and Library Board, Health Board, Parliamentary Constituency, NUTS III, Local Government District, Ward, and sub-Ward levels. All outputs are available from NISRA and can be accessed online at [www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk).

## 2 Population Characteristics

A limiting long-term illness (LLTI) was defined as a long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits a person's daily activities or the work that they can do, including problems that are due to old age. Of the 1,685,000<sup>1</sup> people in Northern Ireland, one-in-five (20.4%), or 343,000 had a limiting long-term illness.

### 2.1 Gender and Age

The female LLTI rate of 21.5% was 2.5 percentage points higher than the male rate of 19.0%. The prevalence of LLTI increased steadily with increasing age (see Figure 1 and Table A1). In most age bands the variation in the male and female rates was negligible. The two exceptions were in the 60-64 age band, where the male rate of 46.2% was 5.1 percentage points higher than that of females, and in the 75+ age group, where the female rate of 70.6% was 7.9 percentage points higher than the male rate.



<sup>1</sup> Figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000



## Census 2001: Limiting Long-term Illness in Northern Ireland

### 2.3 Ethnicity

For the purposes of this paper ethnicity has been grouped under six headings: White, Irish Traveller, Mixed, Asian, Black and Chinese.

Ethnic groups other than white constituted just 0.85% of the population (see Table 1). The highest level of LLTI was found amongst the Irish Traveller population (27.5%), whilst the Chinese and Other ethnic groups had the lowest rate (8.0% and 7.9% respectively).

**Table 1: Rate of LLTI among Ethnic groups in Northern Ireland**

<b>Ethnic Group</b>	<b>Share of Population (%)</b>	<b>LLTI Rate (%)</b>
White	99.15	20.4
Traveller	0.10	27.5
Mixed	0.20	12.0
Asian	0.16	13.4
Black	0.07	13.2
Chinese	0.25	8.0
Other	0.08	7.9

Source: Census Table S318

## 2.4 Community Background

A person's community background was defined as a person's current religious group or the religious group they were brought up in. The four categories of Community Background were Catholic<sup>2</sup>, Protestant<sup>3</sup>, Other Religions and Philosophies and None. The Protestant LLTI rate of 21.2% exceeded the Catholic figure of 19.9% by a margin of 1.3 percentage points (see Table 2).

**Table 2: Rate of LLTI by Community Background in Northern Ireland**

Religion	Share of Population (%)	Rate of LLTI (%)
Protestant	53.1	21.2
Catholic	43.8	19.9
Other	0.4	15.1
None	2.7	11.0

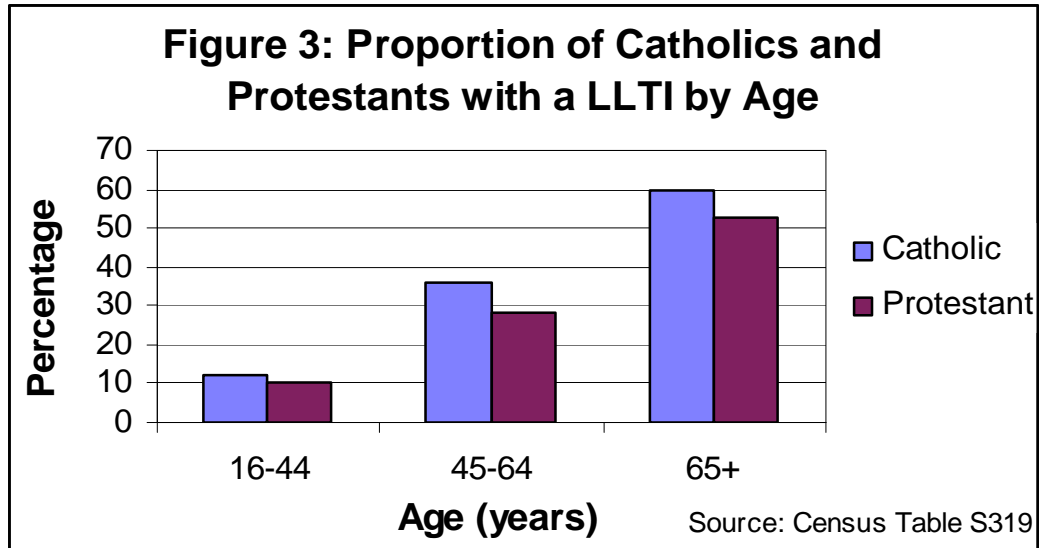
Source: Census Table S319

The Census broke down the LLTI figures by community background into four age brackets, namely: 0-15, 16-44, 45-64 and 65+. Interestingly, despite the overall rate of LLTI being higher in the Protestant community, the Catholic figure was higher in each of the four constituent age bands (see Figure 3 and Table A3). This paradox can be explained by the higher age profile of the Protestant population. At the time of the Census, some 16.6% of Protestants were aged 65 and over compared with 9.8% of Catholics. The high rate of LLTI among those over 65 years old skewed the overall Protestant rate upwards, as a much larger proportion of Protestants fell within this age group.

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<sup>2</sup> The category 'Catholic' included those respondents who gave their religion as Roman Catholic, Catholic Apostolic Church, Ukrainian Catholic, Greek Catholic, Palmarian Catholic or Catholic.

<sup>3</sup> Protestant included Other Christian and Christian-related religions.



### 3 Health and Care

#### 3.1 General Health

Respondents were asked to state whether their general health was good/fairly good or not good. As might be expected, the findings for those with a limiting long-term illness were starkly different from those without a LLTI (see Table 3). Just over half (53.1%) of people with a LLTI described their health as good or fairly good, compared with almost all (98.6%) of persons without a LLTI.

**Table 3: Health Status of Persons With and Without a LLTI in Northern Ireland**

<b>Health Status</b>	<b>With LLTI (%)</b>	<b>Without LLTI (%)</b>
Good or Fairly Good	53.1	98.6
Not Good	46.9	1.4

Source: Census Table S319

### 3.2 Unpaid Care

A person is a provider of unpaid care if they give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of long-term physical or mental health or disability, or problems related to old age. A household in which there was a person with a LLTI was more likely than other households to contain a person who provided unpaid care (see Table 4). For households in which a person with a LLTI resided, 30.0% also contained an unpaid carer. In contrast, some 14.9% of households without a person with a LLTI contained an unpaid carer.

**Table 4: Number of carers in household and LLTI**

<b>Number in household with a LLTI</b>	<b>No carer in household (%)</b>	<b>One or more carer in household (%)</b>
None	85.1	14.9
One or more	70.0	30.0

Source: Census Table CAS027

## 4 Economic Status

### 4.1 Definitions

The economic activity questions applied only to persons aged 16 to 74 years. All persons who were working in the week before the Census were described as economically active. This consisted of persons who did paid work<sup>4</sup> in the week before the Census or were not working but were looking for work and were available to start work within 2 weeks. Full-time work was taken as 31 hours or more per week while part-time work referred to 30 hours or less per week. Full-time students who were economically active were included but were identified separately in the classification.

A person was defined as unemployed if he or she was not in employment, was available to start work in the next 2 weeks and had either looked for work in the last 4 weeks or was waiting to start a new job. This was consistent with the International Labour Office (ILO) standard classification.

Within the Economic Activity classification, a person was either economically active or inactive. Specific categories of Economic Inactivity were: Retired, Student (excludes those students who were working or in some other way were economically active), Looking after family/home, Permanently sick/disabled and Other. A person who was looking for work but was not available to start work within 2 weeks was counted as Economically Inactive.

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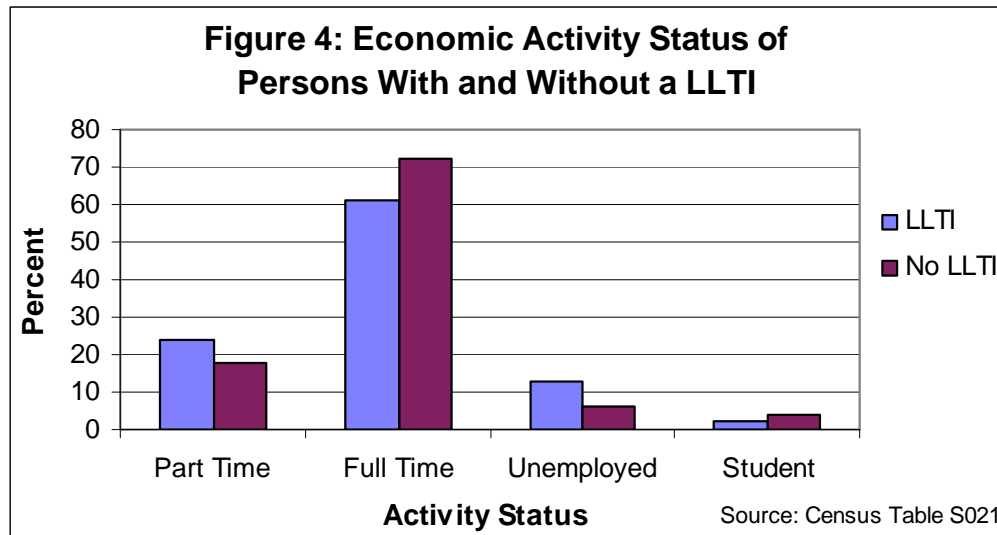
<sup>4</sup> 'Paid work' included casual or temporary work, even if only for one hour; being on a government-sponsored training scheme; being away from a job/business ill, on maternity leave, on holiday or temporarily laid off; or doing paid or unpaid work for their own or family business.

## 4.2 Economic Activity

The rate of economic activity for those with a limiting long-term illness (19.7%) contrasted starkly with the rate of 73.8% for those without a limiting long-term illness. Among persons with a LLTI, men (24.7%) were more likely than women (15.2%) to be economically active.

Among the economically active there were notable differences between persons with and without a LLTI (see Figure 4 and Table A4).

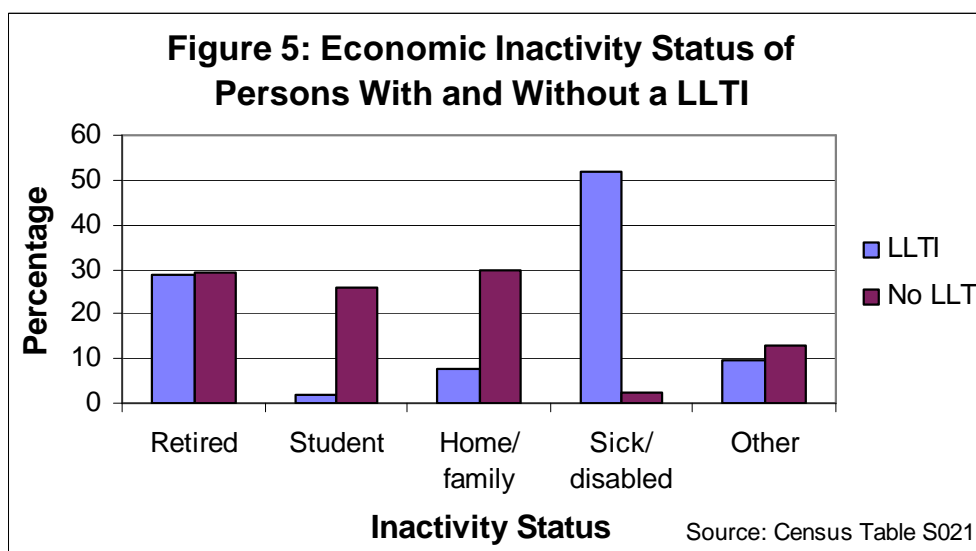
Economically active persons with a LLTI were less likely to be working full-time than persons without a LLTI (61.2% vs. 72.2%) and more likely to be working part-time (24.1% vs. 17.7%) or to be unemployed (12.6% vs. 6.2%).



### 4.3 Economic Inactivity

While the vast majority (80.3%) of persons with a LLTI were economically inactive, only one quarter (26.6%) of those who did not have a LLTI were inactive. Persons with and without a LLTI had different reasons for being economically inactive (see Figure 5 and Table A5).

Unsurprisingly, half (51.9%) of persons with a LLTI were inactive due to permanent sickness and/or disability, while 29.0% were retired. The main reasons for inactivity among the population without a LLTI were looking after a home/family (29.7%), retirement (29.2%) and being a full-time student (26.0%).



#### 4.4 National Statistic Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC)

Another form of socio-economic classification is provided by the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC). This measure takes into account both SOC classification and details of employment status i.e. whether the person is an employer, supervisor, employee, or self-employed, and the number of employees at the workplace. Full-time students have been excluded from the analysis.

People with a LLTI were less likely to be in each of the four highest NS-Sec categories and more likely to be in each of the four lowest NS-SeC categories than those with a LLTI (see Table 5). While 30.4% of people without a LLTI were in the top two NS-Sec categories, only 17.0% of those with a LLTI were at that level. Some 37.6% of people with a LLTI were in the bottom two NS-SeC categories compared with 21.1% of those without a LLTI.

**Table 5: Socio-economic Status of Persons With and Without a LLTI in Northern Ireland**

NS-Sec		LLTI (%)	No LLTI (%)
1	Higher managerial & professional occupations	2.9	7.4
2	Lower managerial & professional occupations	14.1	23.0
3	Intermediate occupations	9.2	12.9
4	Small employers & own account workers	8.4	9.8
5	Lower supervisory & technical occupations	10.0	9.4
6	Semi-routine occupations	17.9	16.4
7	Routine occupations	24.5	15.7
8	Never worked & long-term unemployed	13.1	5.4

Source: Census Table S340

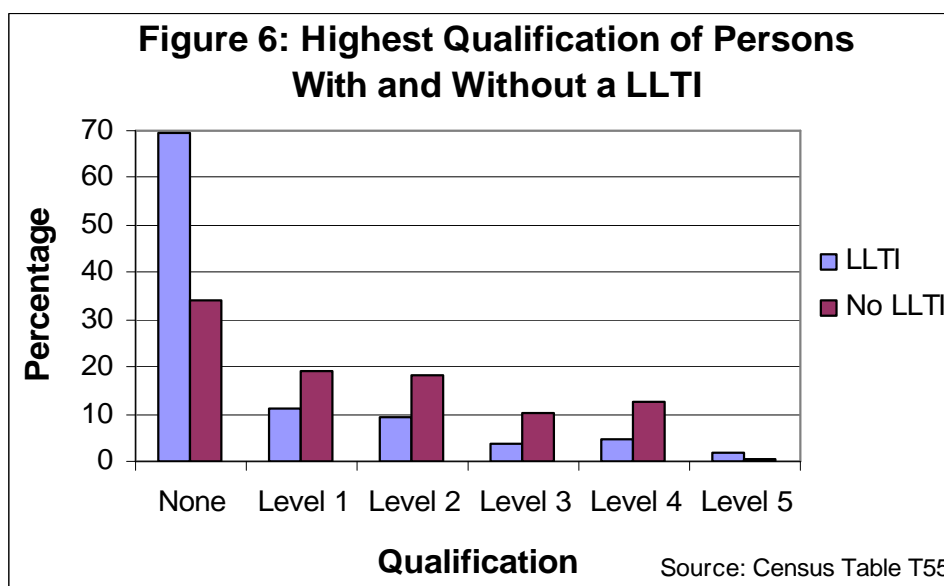
## 5 Academic Attainment

### 5.1 Highest Qualification

The Census assigned a person's 'Highest level of qualification' to one of six categories: None, Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4 and Level 5 (see Table B1 for definition of categories).

The differences in the highest levels of qualifications obtained by those with and without a limiting long-term illness were acute (see Figure 6 and Table A6). Nearly seventy percent (69.6%) of persons with a limiting long-term illness had no qualifications compared with a third (34.1%) of those who did not have a limiting long-term illness.

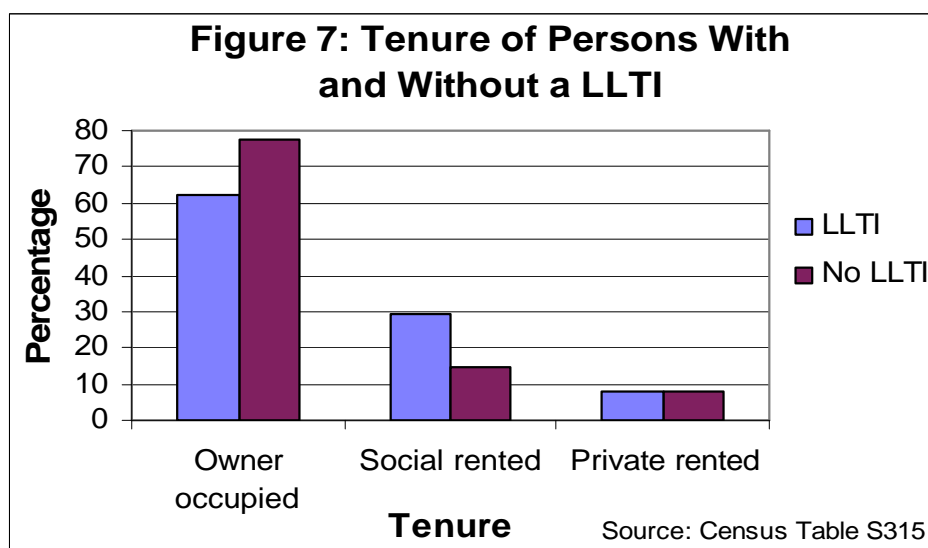
Persons without a LLTI were more likely than those with a LLTI to have either a Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 or Level 4 qualification as their highest level of academic attainment. It is noteworthy, however, that a slightly greater proportion of people with a LLTI achieved a Level 5 qualification (higher degree or equivalent), compared with those without a LLTI (1.9% and 0.6% respectively).



## 6 Home and Car

### 6.1 Tenure

Household tenure was classified as either owner-occupied (owned with a mortgage etc), socially rented (from Housing Executive, Housing Association etc), or privately rented (for example from a private landlord). The proportion of people who rented privately was 7.8% for both those with and without a LLTI (see Figure 7 and Table A7). However people with a LLTI were more likely to be renting socially (29.6% compared with 14.9%) and less likely to be an owner occupier (62.6% vs. 77.3%).



## **6.2 Access to Car**

The 2001 Census permitted examination of a household's access to a car depending upon whether or not the household contained a person with a LLTI. The data revealed that households containing a person with a LLTI were less likely to have access to a car. Almost a third (32.5%) of such households had no car, compared with 15.1% of those which did not contain a person with an LLTI.

Similarly, two-thirds (67.5%) of households containing a person with a LLTI had access to one or more cars, compared with 84.9% of those households which did not contain a person with a LLTI.

**Table 6: Access to car of households with and without a Person with a LLTI in Northern Ireland**

<b>Number of Cars/vans in Household</b>	<b>Households containing a Person with a LLTI (%)</b>	<b>Households not containing a Person with a LLTI (%)</b>
None	32.5	15.1
One or more	67.5	84.9

Source: Census Table S022

## **7 Concluding Remarks**

This paper has shown that there are significant differences in the socio-economic position of people with and without a disability.

People with an LLTI were less likely than others to report good health. The need for additional support for people with a LLTI was indicated by the fact that households containing a person with an LLTI were particularly likely to contain an unpaid carer.

The economic data reflects the existence of additional employment barriers for people with a LLTI: a far greater proportion of people with a LLTI were economically inactive in comparison with those who did not have a LLTI. Furthermore, those with an LLTI who were economically active were less likely than people without a LLTI to work full-time, and more likely to be unemployed, working in routine occupations or on a part-time basis.

With regard to education, people with a LLTI were approximately twice as likely as people without a LLTI to have no academic qualifications. In housing, a smaller proportion of those with a LLTI owned their homes, and a considerably larger proportion rented socially, compared with persons without a LLTI.

The Census was enumerated in April 2001, six years after the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) came into force. On the evidence of this brief paper, much still remains to be done to remove the barriers faced by those with a disability.

## 8 Appendix A: Data Tables

Table A1: Percentage of Males and Female with a LLTI by Age

Age Band	Male (%)	Female (%)
0 to 4	4.8	3.6
5 to 9	7.4	5.3
10 to 14	6.7	5.2
15 to 19	6.0	5.4
20 to 24	7.4	7.0
25 to 29	9.1	8.9
30 to 34	11.1	11.9
35 to 39	13.9	15.1
40 to 44	17.0	18.2
45 to 49	20.9	21.9
50 to 54	26.8	28.9
55 to 59	35.4	36.6
60 to 64	46.2	41.1
65 to 69	47.9	46.1
70 to 74	51.5	53.2
75+	62.7	70.6
<b>All Ages</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>21.5</b>

Source: Census Table S016

## Census 2001: Limiting Long-term Illness in Northern Ireland

**Table A2: Rate of LLTI in Northern Ireland District Councils**

<b>Area</b>	<b>LLTI Rate (%)</b>
Antrim	17.8
Ards	19.4
Armagh	19.3
Ballymena	17.7
Ballymoney	19.6
Banbridge	18.4
Belfast	24.2
Carrickfergus	18.9
Castlereagh	19.4
Coleraine	18.3
Cookstown	22.0
Craigavon	21.5
Derry	21.6
Down	19.0
Dungannon	21.1
Fermanagh	19.2
Larne	19.0
Limavady	19.1
Lisburn	18.2
Magherafelt	18.5
Moyle	21.2
Newry and Mourne	20.4
Newtonabbey	19.1
North Down	18.5
Omagh	20.4
Strabane	23.4
<b>Overall</b>	<b>20.4</b>

Source: Census Table CAS319

## Census 2001: Limiting Long-term Illness in Northern Ireland

**Table A3: Rate of LLTI among Protestants and Catholics**

<b>Age Band</b>	<b>Catholic (%)</b>	<b>Protestant (%)</b>
0-15	6.1	5.1
16-44	12.1	10.3
45-64	35.6	28.4
65+	62.1	55.9
<b>All Ages</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>21.2</b>

Source: Census Table S319

## Census 2001: Limiting Long-term Illness in Northern Ireland

**Table A4. Economic Activity Status of People With and Without a LLTI**

<b>Activity Status</b>	<b>LLTI (%)</b>	<b>No LLTI (%)</b>
Part-time	24.1	17.7
Full-time	61.2	72.2
Unemployed	12.6	6.2
Student	2.1	3.9

Source: Census Table S021

## Census 2001: Limiting Long-term Illness in Northern Ireland

**Table A5. Economic Inactivity Status of People With and Without a LLTI**

<b>Inactivity Status</b>	<b>LLTI (%)</b>	<b>No LLTI (%)</b>
Retired	29.0	29.2
Student	2.0	26.0
Looking after home/family	7.6	29.7
Sick/ Disabled	51.9	2.3
Other	9.6	12.8

Source: Census Table S021

## Census 2001: Limiting Long-term Illness in Northern Ireland

**Table A6. Highest Qualification of People With and Without a LLTI**

<b>Highest Qualification</b>	<b>LLTI (%)</b>	<b>No LLTI (%)</b>
None	69.6	34.1
Level 1	11.0	18.9
Level 2	9.1	18.3
Level 3	3.6	10.4
Level 4	4.8	12.6
Level 5	1.9	0.6

Source: Census Table T15

## Census 2001: Limiting Long-term Illness in Northern Ireland

**Table A7. Tenure of People With and Without a LLTI**

<b>Tenure</b>	<b>LLTI (%)</b>	<b>No LLTI (%)</b>
Owner occupied	62.6	77.3
Social rented	29.6	14.9
Private rented	7.8	7.8

Source: Census Table S315

## Census 2001: Limiting Long-term Illness in Northern Ireland

**Table B1. Definition of Qualification Levels**

Category	Qualifications
None	None
Level 1	GCSE (grades D-G), CSE (grades 2-5), 1-4 CSE's (grade 1), 1-4 GCSE's (grades A-C), 1-4 'O' level passes, NVQ level 1, GNVQ Foundation or equivalents
Level 2	5+ CSE's (grade 1), 5+ GCSE's (grades A-C), 5+ 'O' level passes, Senior Certificate, 1 'A' level, 1-3 AS levels, Advanced Senior Certificate, NVQ level 2, GNVQ Intermediate or equivalents
Level 3	2+ 'A' levels, 4+ AS levels, NVQ level 3, GNVQ Advanced or equivalents
Level 4	First Degree, NVQ level 4, HNC, HND or equivalents
Level 5	Higher Degree, NVQ level 5 or equivalents