

Benefits conditionality for disabled people: Stylized facts from a review of international evidence and practice

WEB APPENDICES

Web Appendix 1 – UK sanctioning data

1. Sources

UK disability sanctioning data was obtained from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)'s Stat-Xplore tool (<https://sw.stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/jsf/login.xhtml>), with ESA sanctioning data being downloaded on 11/9/2016, and JSA sanctioning data on 29/3/2017. Note that the figures for 'originally adverse decisions before challenge' are correct in terms of their total number, but are only an approximation for any given month due to the way that the dates are stored on Stat-Xplore.¹

The proportion of unemployment benefit (JSA) claimants that are disabled is given in Freedom of Information request (DWP, 2015) for May in each year 2010-2014. Outside of this FOI request, there are no data on the share of JSA claimants that report a disability.

2. Definitions of disability

'Disabled benefit claimants' includes both:

- **Disability benefit claimants** ('WRAG' – claimants in the Work Related Activity Group on Employment and Support Allowance); and
- **Unemployment benefit claimants** ('JSA' – Jobseekers' Allowance) who self-declare a disability. According to Freedom of Information request 2013-2901, the disability measures reflects that *"a person can self-declare in the Job Centre whether or not they consider themselves to 'have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities'"*; see http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/212228/foi-2901-2013.pdf

3. Categorisation of types of sanction

Figure 1 divides disability benefit and unemployment benefit sanctions as follows:

- **Work-related (JSA)** – unemployment benefit claimants are sanctioned for any work-related reason (including not actively seeking employment / being available for work, left employment voluntarily without good reason / due to misconduct, or refusal to apply for/accept a job).
- **Not attending interview (WRAG)** – disability benefit claimants who are sanctioned due to 'Failed to attend mandatory interview';
- **Not attending interview (JSA)** – unemployment benefit claimants who are sanctioned for failure to participate in an adviser interview (the Stat-Xplore categories 'Failure to attend or failure to participate in an Adviser interview without good reason (pre April 2010)' and 'Failure to attend or failure to participate in an Adviser interview without good reason').
- **Not carrying out activity (WRAG)** – disability benefit claimants who are sanctioned due to 'Failure to participate in work related activity';

¹ To explain further – Stat-Xplore only includes the date of the most recent decision that has been made, rather than the date of the original decision. Total numbers of decision reviews, reconsiderations and appeals (which are used to calculate the number of originally adverse decisions) will in fact relate to original adverse decisions made in previous months.

- **Not carrying out activity (JSA)** – unemployment benefit claimants who are sanctioned for any reason that is neither interview-related nor than work-related. (This includes the Stat-Xplore categories:
 - Voluntarily leaves a place on a training scheme or employment programme without good reason
 - Losing through misconduct a place on a training scheme or employment programme
 - Refusal of a place on a training scheme or employment programme without good reason
 - Neglect to avail themselves of a reasonable opportunity of a place on a training scheme or employment programme without good reason
 - Failure to attend a place on a training scheme or employment programme without good reason Refusal or failure to comply with a Jobseeker's Direction without good reason
 - Failure to participate in a scheme for assisting person to obtain employment without good reason (Work Programme, Skills Conditionality, Work Experience, or other scheme)
 - Failure to participate in supervised job search
 - Failure to participate in Mandatory Work Activity without good reason
 - Trade disputes
 - Failure to attend Back to Work Session without good reason
 - Jobseeker's Agreement questions
 - Joint Claim exemption
 - Other referral reason)

4. *Relative sanctioning rate for disabled unemployment benefit claimants*

The main text notes, “official statistics suggest that the sanctioning rate for disabled people on the unemployment benefit is 25-50% higher than for non-disabled people”, referring to this Web Appendix for detail.

The share of JSA sanctions that are given to disabled people is taken from Stat-Xplore on 11/9/2016, while the share of JSA claimants that are disabled is taken from an FOI request (see section 1 above). The definition of ‘disabled’ is as given in section 2 above.

From this data, the calculation of the relative sanction rate for disabled (vs. non-disabled) people is simply $\frac{sanction_{dis}/claims_{dis}}{(100\% - sanction_{dis})/(100\% - claims_{dis})}$, where:

- $sanction_{dis}$ is the share of sanctions that go to disabled people (22% in May 2010)
- $claims_{dis}$ is the share of claimants that are disabled (16% in May 2010).

The relative risk of sanctioning among disabled (vs. non-disabled) JSA claimants in the five available time points is as follows:

	Relative sanction rate (monthly figures)	Relative sanction rate (annual figures)
May-10	150%	153%
May-11	148%	145%
May-12	132%	132%
May-13	143%	148%
May-14	126%	128%

Note: ‘Monthly figures’ compares the proportion of disabled JSA claimants in May of each year with the sanction rates of disabled vs. non-disabled people in that month. However, because monthly figures can fluctuate due to smaller sample sizes, I also include ‘annual figures’ which use the sanction rates of

disabled vs. non-disabled people in that 12-month period (from Dec of the previous year to the following Nov).

Bibliography

DWP. (2015). Freedom of Information request 2015-447. Retrieved from https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/408930/447-2015.pdf [accessed 6/12/2016]