

Scale of vulnerability in the UK

Sources

1. National Literacy Trust
2. National Numeracy
3. Alzheimer's UK
4. NHS
5. Macmillan
6. Ofcom
7. Age UK
8. Scope
9. MIND
10. Carers UK
11. DWP
12. USwitch
13. money.co.uk
14. FCA
15. MHA

Age

3.2 million people aged 80+, ¹⁵

The age 85+ age group is the fastest growing. ⁷

Dementia

1 in 11 people over the age of 65 have dementia in the UK. ⁴

Projected to be over 1.4 million people by 2040. ³

Digital⁶

11.9m people (22% of the population) do not have the digital skills needed for everyday life in the UK.

People with a disability are 35% less likely to have essential digital skills for life.

Carers¹⁰

There are around 10.6 million carers in the UK, 1 in 5 people.

Over the next 30 years, the number of carers will increase by 3.4 million.

Cancer⁵

Every 90 seconds someone in the UK is diagnosed with cancer.

Smoking is the largest cause of cancer in the UK, accounting for 15% of all cancer cases.

An estimated 3 million people were living with cancer in 2021, rising to 3.5 million by 2025 and again rising to 5.3 million in 2040.

Literacy and Numeracy

1 in 7 adults have literacy levels equivalent to a nine to 11 year old. ¹

17 million adults have the numeracy level of primary school children. ²

Cost of living

Up to 1.2 million people were already living below the poverty line before the current cost of living crisis. ⁴

Nearly 1 million pensioners in the UK live in poverty. ¹¹

Savings

The average age for a first-time buyer in England was 34 in 2021/22. ¹²

The average person in the UK has £17,365 in their savings. ¹³

Up to a third (34%) of UK adults had either no savings, or less than £1,000 in a savings account. ¹³

Disability⁸

23% of working age adults are disabled.

45% of pension age adults are disabled.

Disabled people are almost twice as likely to be unemployed as non-disabled people.

Mental Health⁹

1 in 4 people will experience a mental health problem of some kind every year in England.