These statistics provide you with an overview, which can help you to build a picture of disabled people in our population.

As well as activity levels and the number of people with certain impairments, this sheet highlights facts on barriers.
One in five people (21%) in England have an impairment or health condition - around 11.5 million disabled people. (ONS, 2017)

4.4 million of disabled people in England are over state pension age (45%). (ONS, 2017)

6.6 million of disabled people in England are adults of working age (19%). (ONS, 2017)

800,000 of disabled people in England are children (8%). (ONS, 2017)
Impairment statistics

The following facts show the numbers of disabled people in the UK with different types of impairments.

- **75%** of people have more than one impairment.  
  (Sport England, 2016)

- More than **2 million** people in the UK are living with sight loss that has a significant impact on their daily lives.  
  That is almost **1 in 27** people.  
  (Royal National Institute of Blind People, 2018)

- **9.2 million** people in England have hearing loss.  
  (ONS, 2016)

- **8%** of disabled people in the UK use wheelchairs. That’s around **1.2 million**.  
  (NHS England, 2016)

- An estimated **6000** people are living with a restricted growth condition in the UK.  
  (Restricted Growth UK, 2019)
1 in 400 babies in the UK are born with cerebral palsy, with up to 1,800 children being diagnosed each year. (Cerebral Palsy UK, 2019)

24,620 people in England have cerebral palsy. This is 0.45% of the population. (Sport England, 2016)

There are 700,000 people on the autism spectrum in the UK – more than 1 in 100. Between 44% and 52% of autistic people have a learning disability. (National Autistic Society, 2019)

1 in 6 (17%) adults in England have a diagnosable mental health condition. Nearly half (43%) think they have had a diagnosable mental health condition. (NHS Digital, 2014)

There are 1.4 million people in the UK with a learning disability. (Mencap, 2019)

30% of people with a long-term physical health condition also have a mental health problem. (The King’s Fund, 2012)
2.5 million people in the UK have a cancer diagnosis. (Macmillan, 2017)

Over 1.2 million people in the UK have had a stroke. (Stroke Association, 2018)

850,000 people are living with dementia in the UK. (Alzheimer’s Society, 2014)

7 million people are living with cardiovascular disease in the UK. (British Heart Foundation, 2018)

17.8 million people live with a musculoskeletal condition in the UK, including inflammatory conditions, musculoskeletal pain, and osteoporosis. (Arthritis Research UK, 2018)
Inactivity is more common for disabled people (43%) than non-disabled people (21%).
(Sport England, 2018)

7 in 10 disabled people want to do more sport and physical activity.
(Activity Alliance, 2013)

Psychological barriers play the biggest role in preventing disabled people from taking part in sport.
(Activity Alliance, 2012)