

INFORMATION
ANALYSIS
DIRECTORATE



Carers' Statistics for Northern Ireland Quarter ending 30th June 2014



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Key Findings

This is the quarterly publication of Carers' Statistics for Northern Ireland. Figures are presented regionally and by Health and Social Care Trust in respect of completed and declined Carers' Assessments, completed Carers' Reviews, completed and declined Carers' Reassessments and reasons why offers of Assessment/ Reassessment were declined by carers.

During quarter ending 30 June 2014:

Carers' Assessments

- 2,745 Carers' Assessments were offered to carers in Northern Ireland. This represented a decrease of 6% (188) from the previous quarter (2,933) and an increase of 1% (22) from the same quarter last year (2,723).
- Of the 2,745 Carers' Assessments offered, 42% (1,146) were completed and 58% (1,599) were declined.
- The 1,146 Carers' Assessments which were completed represented a decrease of 7% (90) from the previous quarter (1,236) and a decrease of 8% (94) from the same quarter last year (1,240).
- The 1,599 Carers' Assessments which were declined represented a decrease of 6% (98) from the previous quarter (1,697) and an increase of 8% (116) from the same quarter last year (1,483).

Carers' Reviews

- 815 Carers' Reviews were completed. This was a decrease of 12% (116) from the previous quarter (931) and an increase of 33% (204) from the same quarter last year (611).

Carers' Reassessments

- 352 Carers' Reassessments were offered to carers in Northern Ireland. This represented a decrease of 8% (32) from the previous quarter (384) and an increase of 4% (15) from the same quarter last year (337).
- Of the 352 Carers' Reassessments offered, 51% (181) were completed and 49% (171) were declined.
- The 181 Carers' Reassessments which were completed represented a decrease of 17% (38) from the previous quarter (219) and a decrease of 10% (19) from the same quarter last year (200).
- The 171 Carers' Reassessments which were declined represented an increase of 4% (6) from the previous quarter (165) and an increase of 25% (34) from the same quarter last year (137).

About Us



Statistics and research for the **Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety** is provided by the Information and Analysis Directorate (IAD). It comprises four statistical sections: Hospital Information, Community Information, Public Health Information & Research and Project Support Analysis.

IAD is responsible for compiling, processing, analysing, interpreting and disseminating a wide range of statistics covering health and social care.



The statisticians within IAD are outposted from the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA) and our statistics are produced in accordance with the principles and protocols set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Our Vision and Values

- ***Provide up-to-date, quality information on children and adult social services and community health;***
- ***to disseminate findings widely with a view to stimulating debate, promoting effective decision-making and improvement in service provision; and***
- ***be an expert voice on social care information.***

About Community Information Branch

The purpose of Community Information Branch (CIB) is to promote effective decision making in children and adult social services by providing quality information and analysis.

We collect, analyse, and publish a wide range of community information that is used to help monitor the delivery of personal social services policy. Information collected by CIB is used to assess HSC Trust performance, for corporate monitoring, policy evaluation, and to respond to parliamentary/assembly questions.

Information is widely disseminated through a number of regular key statistical publications and ad hoc reports details of which are available online.

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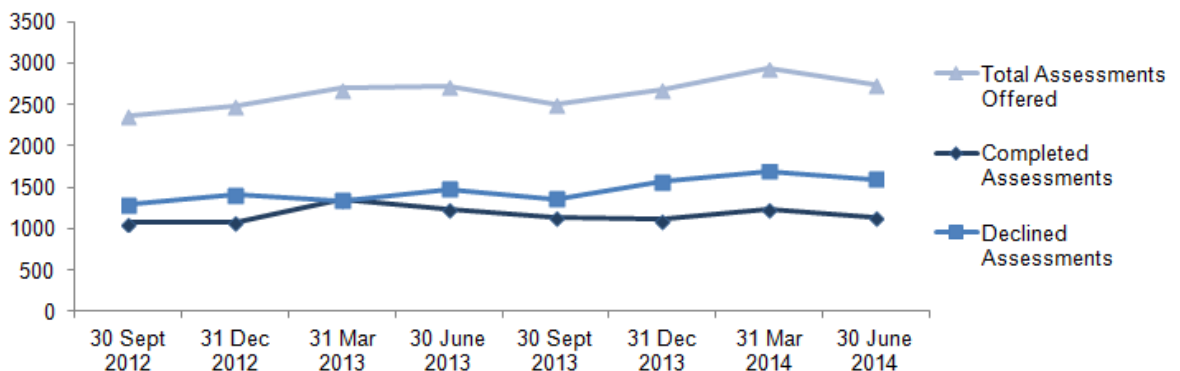
Overview

(i) Quarterly Trends

Carers' Assessments

During quarter ending 30 June 2014, 1,146 Carers' Assessments had been completed in Northern Ireland. This represented a 7% decrease on the previous quarter and an 8% decrease on the same quarter in 2013.

1,599 Carers' Assessments had been declined during the quarter; this represented a 6% decrease on the previous quarter. The number of Carers' Assessments declined exceeded the number of completed Carers' Assessments. The most common reason for a carer to decline a Carers' Assessment remained that they felt that they did not need any support or additional support to cope with their caring duties (34%).



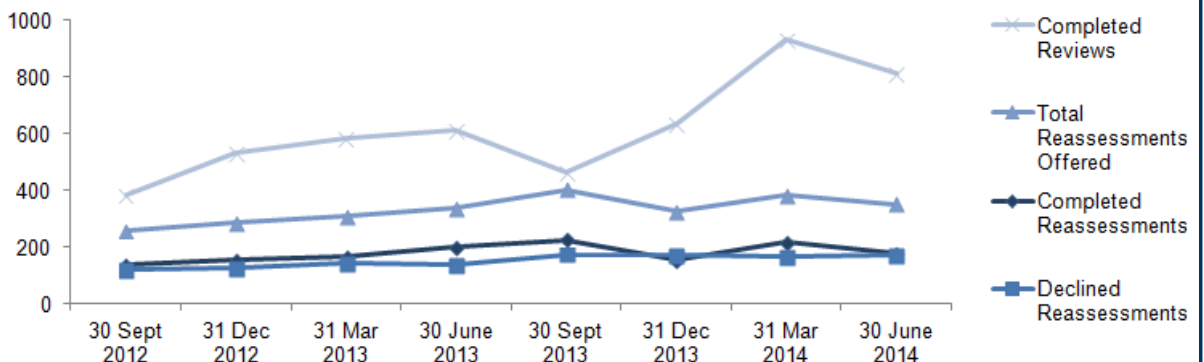
Carers' Reviews and Reassessments

The quarterly numbers of completed Carers' Reviews have in general been quite variable. However, the 815 Carers' Reviews completed during quarter ending 30 June 2014 along with the 931 completed in the previous quarter represent a significant increase in the number of completed Carers' Reviews compared to those seen in previous quarters.

The total number of Carers' Reassessments offered by Health and Social Care Trusts decreased by 8% from 384 in the previous quarter to 352 during quarter ending 30 June 2014. Furthermore, it represented a 4% increase from the same quarter in 2013.

The number of Carers' Reassessments declined (171) was less than the number of Carers' Reassessments completed (181) during quarter ending 30 June 2014. This has been the case for all previous quarters except for quarter ending 31 December 2013.

The most common reason for declining a Carers' Reassessment during this quarter was that the carer felt that they did not need any additional support (56%).



(ii) Current Position and Comparison against Previous Quarter



Introduction

Carers are people who, without payment, provide help and support to a family member or a friend who may not be able to manage without this help because of frailty, illness or disability. Carers can be adults caring for other adults, parents caring for ill or disabled children or young people who care for another family member and are a vital part of the DHSSPS's vision of providing support for people to live more independent lives and helping people remain in their own homes and live independently for longer.

In recognition of the need to support carers in their caring role and their need to have access to a social life, educational, training and employment opportunities, a carers' strategy, "[Caring for Carers](#)", was developed. The strategy, published in January 2006, was inter-departmental and inter-agency, dealing with health and personal social services, employment, training, education, availability of information and support services.

Carers may need support to allow them to continue in their caring role and to ensure their own health and well-being does not suffer as a result. They have a right to a life outside caring. All Carers are individuals and, as such, present varying needs. Proper **assessment** is the first step to accessing services and it is vitally important that carers are offered the opportunity to discuss their own needs and be considered for services in their own right.

The [Carers and Direct Payments Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2002](#) imposed a statutory duty on Health and Social Care Trusts to inform carers of their right to an assessment and to be considered for services to meet their own needs. The Carers' Assessment looks at each carer as an individual with their own personal circumstances, and will identify any particular needs they may have as a result. It is important that the needs of individual carers are properly understood and that service providers are prepared to respond with flexibility, offering carers real choice as to how their needs will be met. The "Carers Support and Needs Assessment" component of the [Northern Ireland Single Assessment Tool \(NISAT\)](#) is used for assessing the needs of carers in all programmes of care, thus ensuring a standardised approach to assessment regardless of the location of the carer in Northern Ireland.

This bulletin presents for the **quarter ending 30 June 2014**, statistics relating to the numbers of completed and declined Carers' Assessments, the main reasons why carers declined offers to be assessed, Carers' Reviews completed, Carers' Reassessments completed and declined. Analyses are presented in respect of carers and the persons cared for by gender and age, both regionally and across Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland.

Detailed definitions are available in Appendix B of this report.

Carers' Assessments

Quarter ending 30th June 2014

A Carers' Assessment is carried out to determine the support needs of the person in commencing or sustaining their caring role; or in addressing the risks to the sustainability of that caring role; or the risks to the carers' own health and wellbeing.

During quarter ending 30 June 2014, 2,745 Carers' Assessments were offered to carers in Northern Ireland. This represented a decrease of 6% (188) from the previous quarter (2,933) and an increase of 1% (22) from the same quarter last year (2,723).

Of the 2,745 Carers' Assessments offered, 42% (1,146) were completed and 58% (1,599) were declined (Table 1).



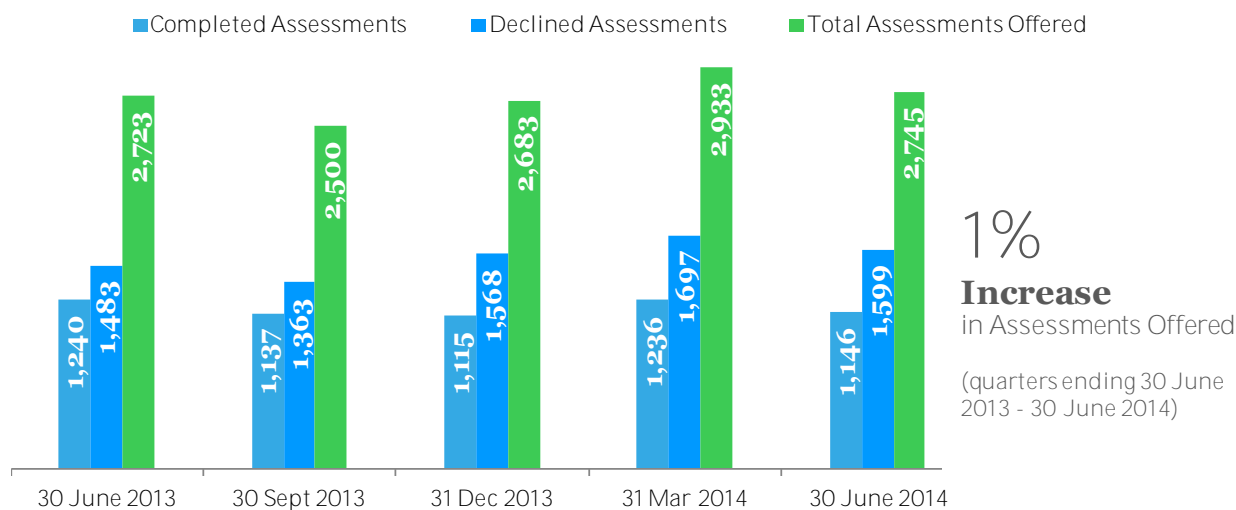
The 1,146 Carers' Assessments which were completed represented a decrease of 7% (90) from the previous quarter (1,236) and a decrease of 8% (94) from the same quarter last year (1,240).

The 1,599 Carers' Assessments which were declined represented a decrease of 6% (98) from the previous quarter (1,697) and an increase of 8% (116) from the same quarter last year (1,483) (Figure 1).

The number of declined Carers' Assessments has continually been higher than the number of completed Carers' Assessments with the exception of quarter ending 31 March 2013 (Table 1).

Figure 1 overleaf presents the number of Carers' Assessments during the last five quarters.

Figure 1: Carers' Assessments Completed, Declined and Offered (quarters ending 30 June 2013 - 30 June 2014)

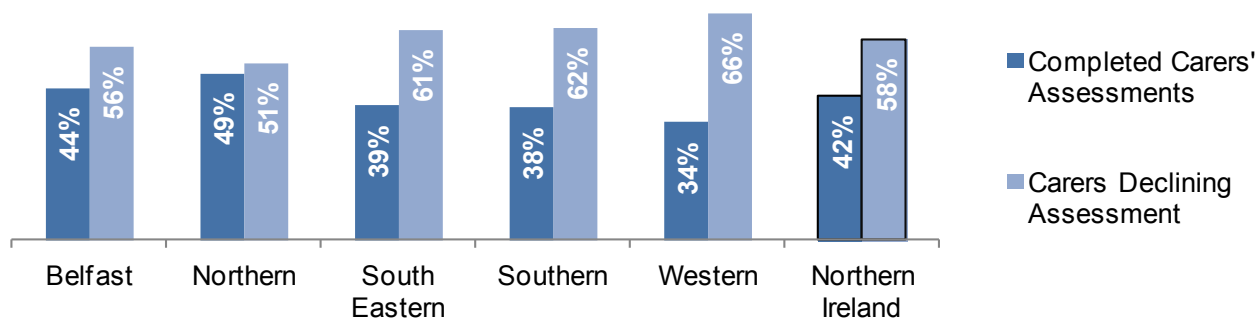


Of all Carers' Assessments offered in Northern Ireland, the Northern Trust offered the most (25%) whilst the Western Trust offered the least (11%) (Table 2).

The Northern Trust had the highest number of completed Carers' Assessments (335) while the Western Trust had the fewest (103).

The Southern Trust had the highest number of declined Carers' Assessments (429) while the Western Trust had the fewest (199).

Figure 2: Proportion of Carers' Assessments Completed and Declined by HSC Trust (quarter ending 30 June 2014)



During quarter ending 30 June 2014, each Trust had more Carers' Assessments declined than completed. This ranged from 51% of assessments declined in the Northern Trust to 66% in the Western Trust (Figure 2).

Figure 3: Proportion of Carers' Assessments Declined by Age Group of Carer (quarter ending 30 June 2014)

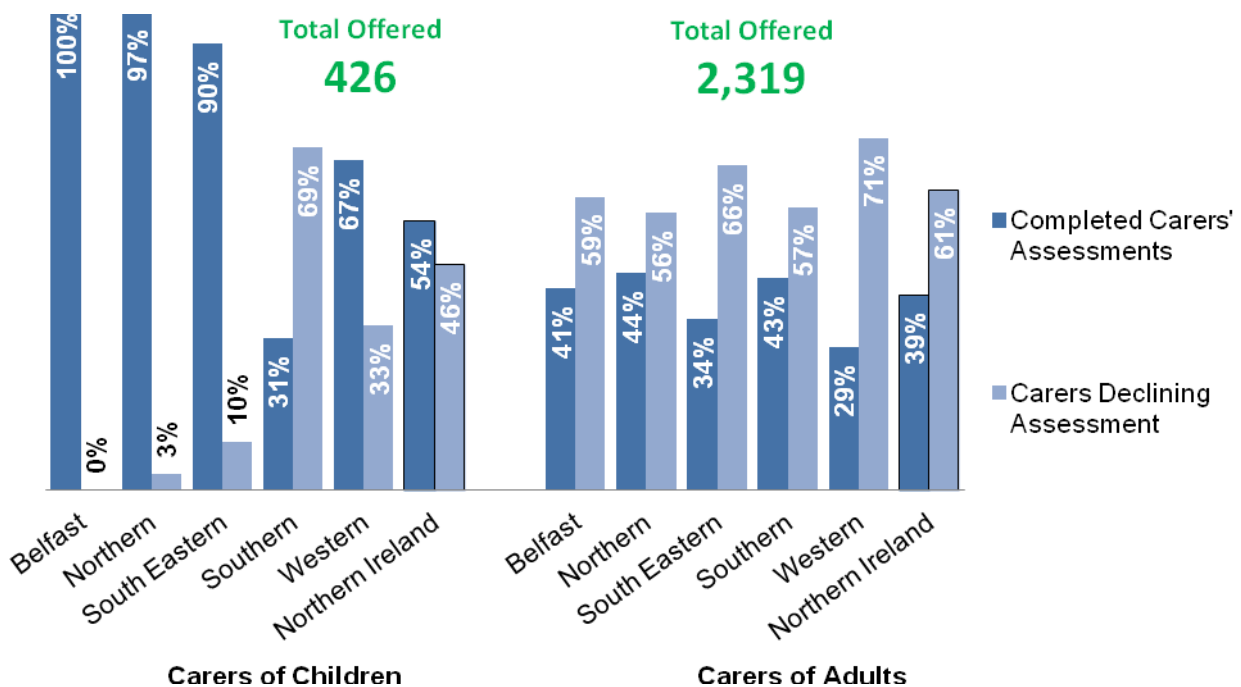
Proportion of Carers' Assessments Declined			
Aged 16&17	Aged 18-64	Aged 65-74	Aged 75&Over
24%	55%	61%	71%

For all Carers' Assessments, the likelihood of an offer being declined increased with the age group of the carer. Of those carers aged 16 & 17, 24% declined a Carers' Assessment; 55% of those aged 18-64; 61% of those aged 65-74; and 71% of those aged 75 & over also declined a Carers' Assessment (Figure 3).

Of the 2,745 Carers' Assessments offered, 426 (16%) were offered to carers of children and 2,319 (84%) were offered to carers of adults (Table 3).

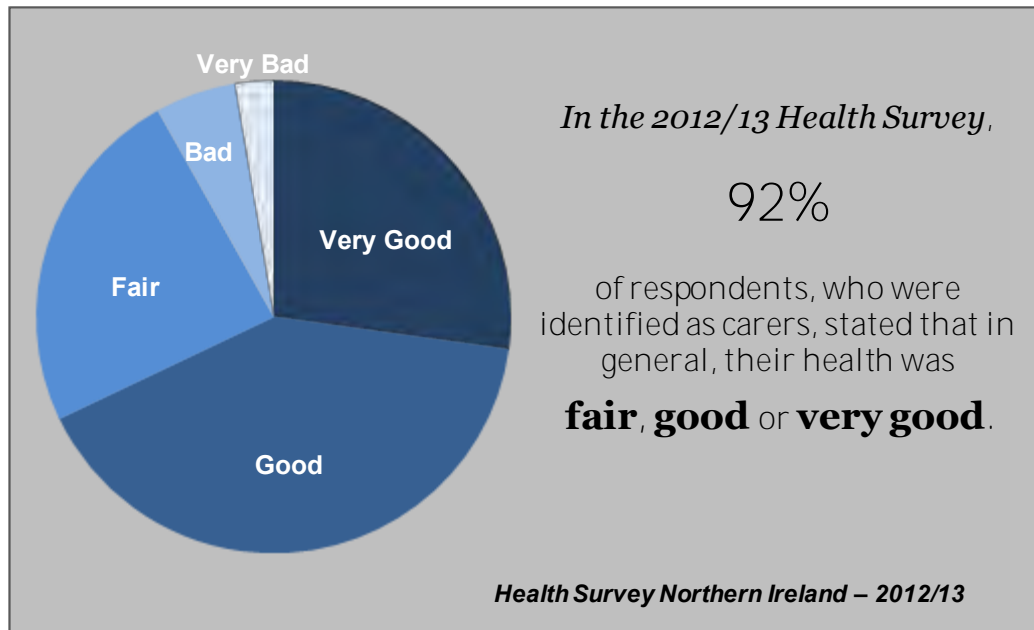
Differences existed in the uptake of Carers' Assessments depending on whether the person being cared for was a child or an adult, with a higher proportion of Carers' Assessments being completed for carers of children (54%) than for carers of adults (39%) (Figure 4). Please note however that carers of children is based on low numbers which can add to the volatility of the figures.

Figure 4: Proportion of Carers' Assessments Completed and Declined for Carers of Children and Adults by HSC Trust (quarter ending 30 June 2014)



Note: Carers of children is based on low numbers which can add to the volatility of the figures.

The Southern Trust offered the highest number of Carers' Assessments for carers of children (251). However, the Southern Trust also had the largest proportion of declined Carers' Assessments for carers of children (69%). All of the Trusts had a higher proportion of carers of adults declining a Carers' Assessment than completing one. Over seven tenths (71%) of carers of adults declined a Carers' Assessment in the Western Trust compared with over half (56%) in the Northern Trust.



The most frequent reason for declining a Carers' Assessment has consistently been that the carer felt that they did not need any support or additional support; in the last two years this has ranged from 49% during quarter ending 30 September 2013 to 34% during quarter ending 30 June 2014 when it was the most frequent reason reported in the Belfast, Northern and South Eastern Trusts (Table 4).

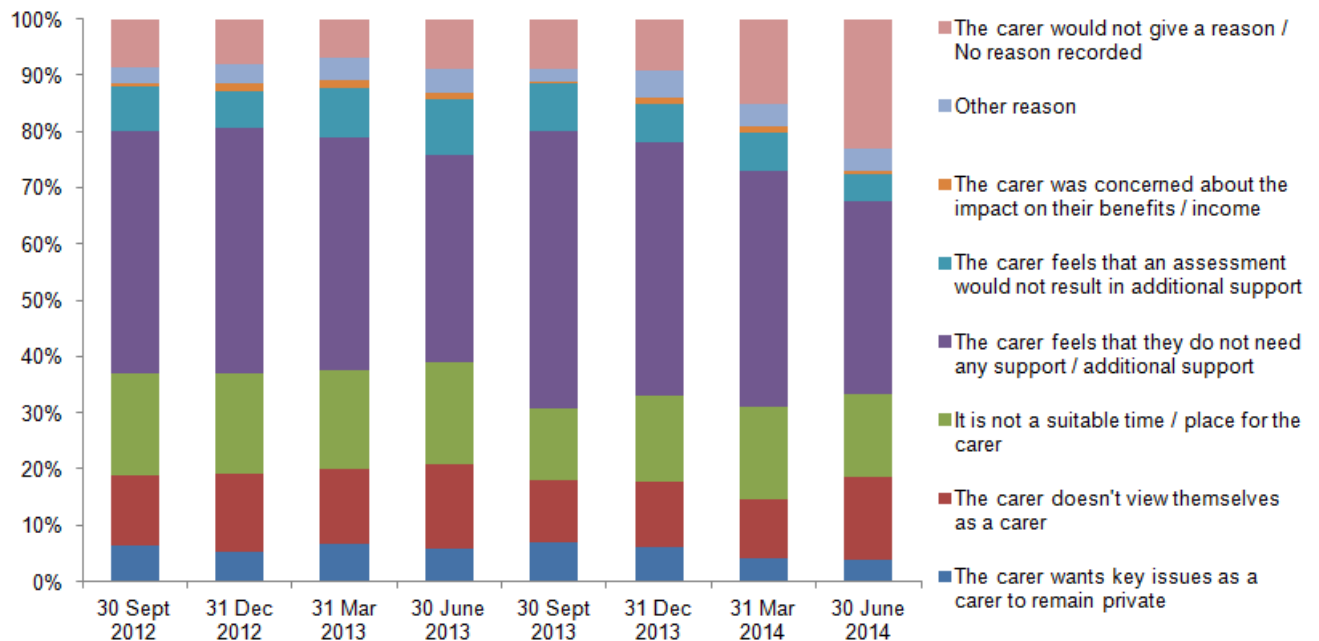
34%
of carers who declined an assessment felt that they **did not need any support or additional support.**

In the Southern Trust, 242 (56%) carers provided no reason for declining a Carers' Assessment although 86 (20%) felt that they did not need any support or additional support. In the Western Trust "not a suitable time/place for the carer" was the most common reason for declining a Carers' Assessment (32%).

Regionally, the proportions of reasons for declining a Carers' Assessment have remained largely similar over the past eight quarters (Figure 5).

* The Health Survey Northern Ireland is produced by the Public Health Information and Research Branch (PHIRB) and can be found at: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-public-health.htm

Figure 5: Reasons Given for Declining a Carers' Assessment (quarters ending 30 September 2012 – 30 June 2014)



However, there has been an increase in the number of carers providing no reason for declining a Carers' Assessment; the proportion was eight percentage points higher during quarter ending 30 June 2014 (23%) than the previous quarter (15%). This increase can largely be attributed to increased figures in the Southern Trust who had the highest proportion of carers not giving a reason for declining (56%).

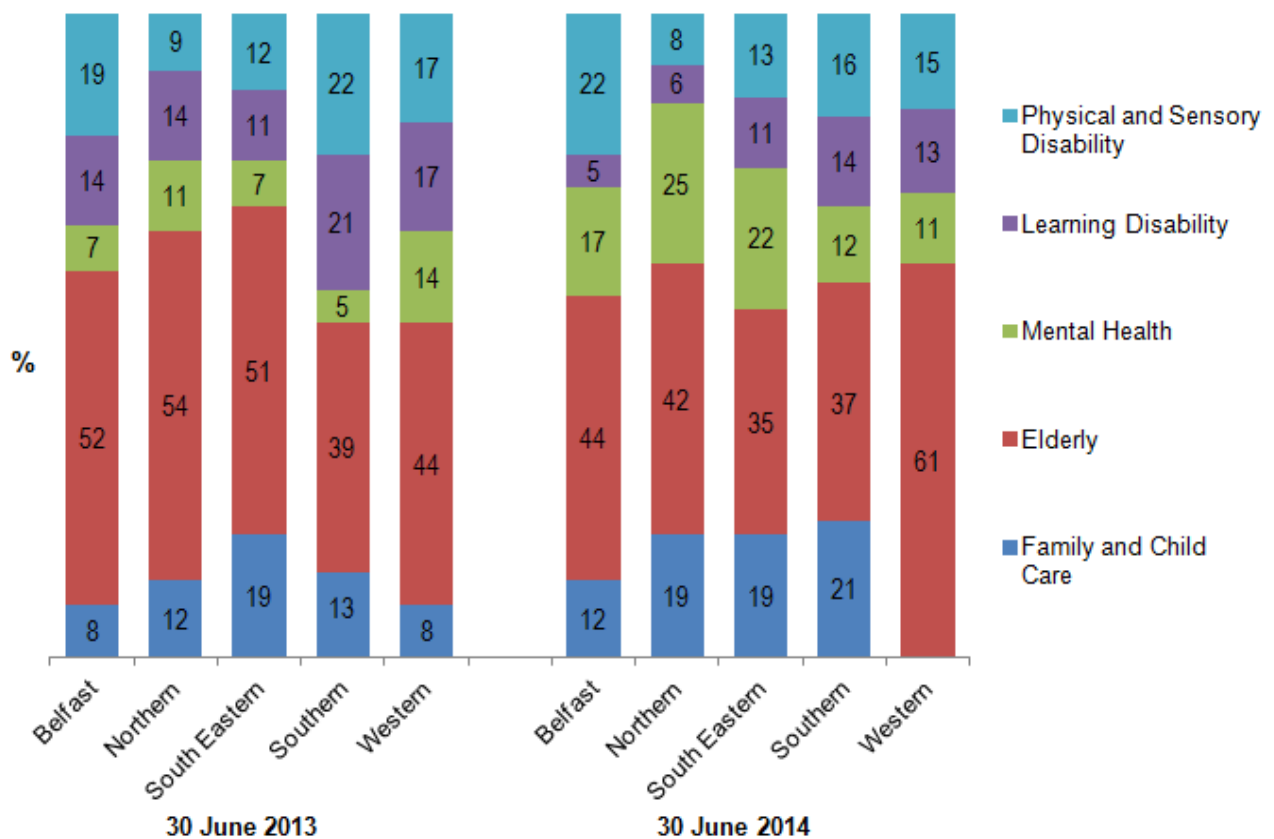
Concern about the impact on their benefits / income has consistently been the least frequent reason cited by carers for declining a Carers' Assessment; with less than 1% of carers declining for this reason during quarter ending 30 June 2014.

Across all Trusts, the highest percentage of carers who had been assessed during quarter ending 30 June 2014 were caring for someone in the Elderly Programme of Care (POC) (Table 5).

The Northern Trust had the highest percentage of carers assessed who were caring for someone in the Mental Health POC (25%), compared to 11% within the Western Trust.

Over one in seven (14%) carers assessed within the Southern Trust were caring for someone in the Learning Disability POC compared to 5% within the Belfast Trust.

Figure 6: Percentage of Carers Assessed by Programme of Care (of Cared for Person) and by HSC Trust (quarters ending 30 June 2013 & 30 June 2014)



The distribution of carers assessed by POC (of the cared for person) remained largely similar during quarter ending 30 June 2014 to that of the same quarter in 2013 (Figure 6). However, the percentage of carers assessed who were caring for someone in the Mental Health POC increased within the Belfast, Northern, South Eastern and Southern Trusts. These four Trusts also saw a decrease in the percentage of carers assessed who were caring for someone in the Elderly POC. During quarter ending 30 June 2014, there were no carers caring for someone in the Family and Child Care POC assessed within the Western Trust.

Carers' Reviews

Quarter ending 30th June 2014

A Carers' Review is carried out to determine whether or not the package of support provided to the carer continues to sustain them in their caring role. This is achieved by identifying if the goals set at the commencement of the package or since a previous review are currently being met, or if there are any changes which should be made to the package in order for it to continue to support the carer.

During quarter ending 30 June 2014, 815 Carers' Reviews were completed. This was a decrease of 12% (116) from the previous quarter (931) and an increase of 33% (204) from the same quarter last year (611) (Table 6).



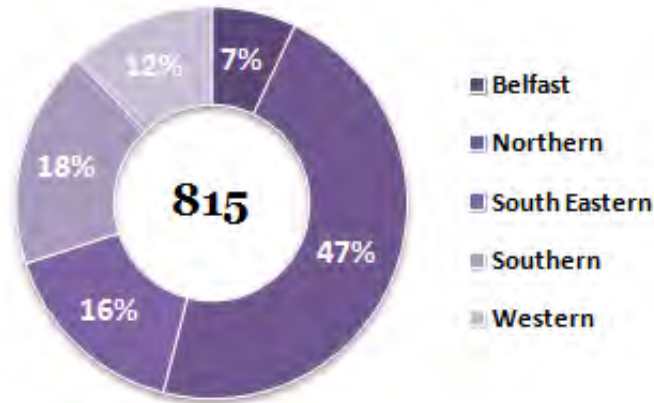
The quarterly numbers of completed Carers' Reviews have in general been quite variable. Figure 7 below presents the changes in the number of Carers' Reviews over the last 5 quarters.

Figure 7: Completed Carers' Reviews (quarters ending 30 June 2013 - 30 June 2014)



Of the 815 Carers' Reviews that were completed during quarter ending 30 June 2014, 47% were completed by the Northern Trust. With 7%, the Belfast Trust completed the least number of Carers' Reviews during the quarter (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Completed Carers' Reviews by HSC Trust (quarter ending 30 June 2014)



Furthermore, the Northern Trust carried out 56% of the Carers' Reviews of carers aged 65 years and over (Table 7).

Carers' Reassessments

Quarter ending 30th June 2014

A Carers' Reassessment is required when a carer's circumstances change resulting in a change in their level of need. For example, this could be additional family commitments, changes in work pattern, or varying physical or mental health. The Reassessment can be either a complete rework of the original Carers' Assessment or an amendment to aspects of it.

During quarter ending 30 June 2014, 352 Carers' Reassessments were offered to carers in Northern Ireland. This represented a decrease of 8% (32) from the previous quarter (384) and an increase of 4% (15) from the same quarter last year (337).

Of the 352 Carers' Reassessments offered, 51% (181) were completed and 49% (171) were declined.



The 181 Carers' Reassessments which were completed represented a decrease of 17% (38) from the previous quarter (219) and a decrease of 10% (19) from the same quarter last year (200).

The 171 Carers' Reassessments which were declined represented an increase of 4% (6) from the previous quarter (165) and an increase of 25% (34) from the same quarter last year (137).

Comparisons between the initial Carers' Assessments and the Carers' Reassessments show that a higher proportion of Carers' Assessments were declined (58% compared to 49%) (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Proportion of Carers' Assessments and Carers' Reassessments Completed and Declined

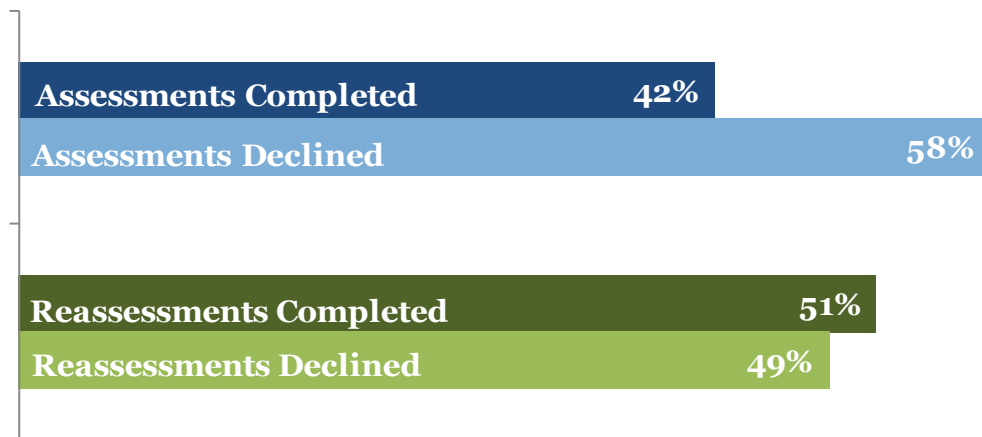
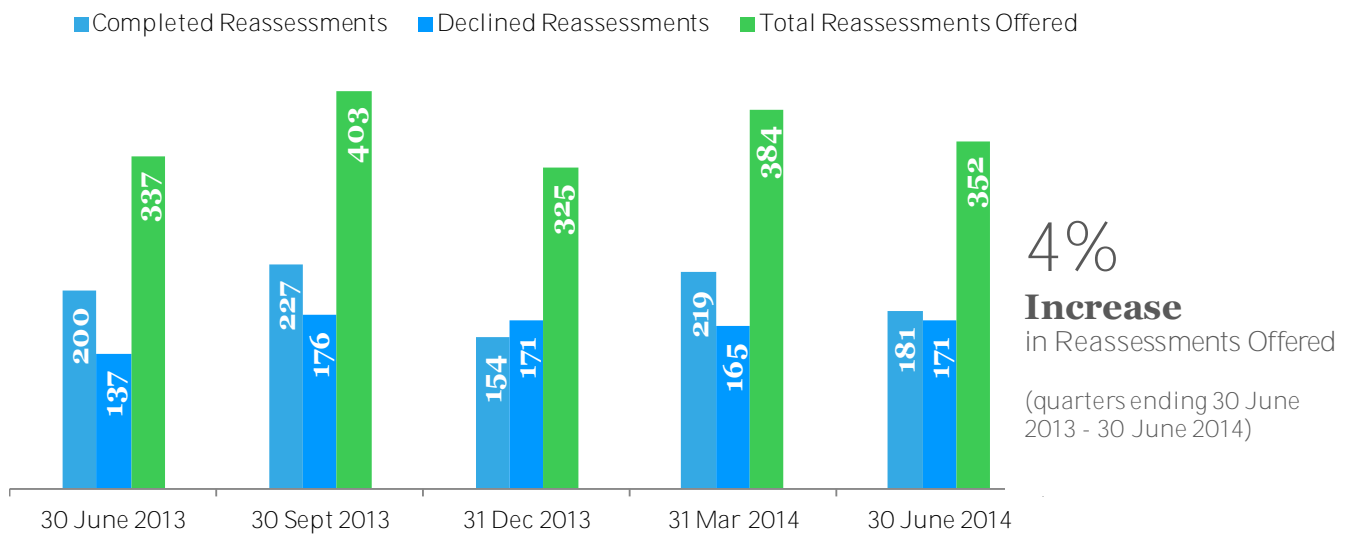


Figure 10 below presents the number of Carers' Reassessments during the last five quarters.

Figure 10: Carers' Reassessments Completed, Declined and Offered (quarters ending 30 June 2013 - 30 June 2014)

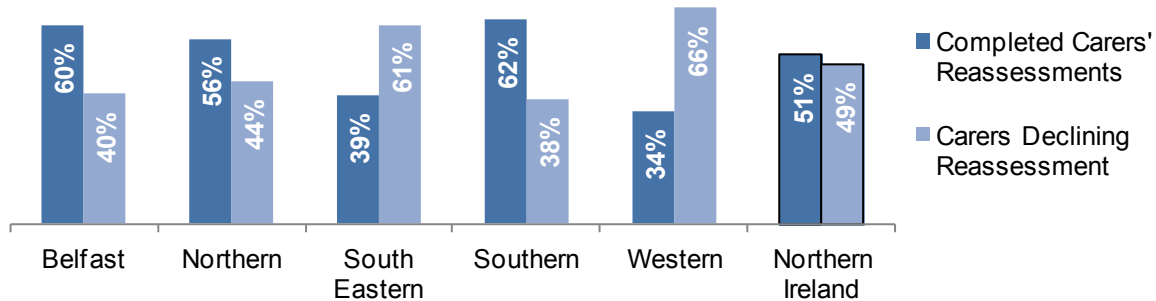


Of all Carers' Reassessments offered in Northern Ireland, the Belfast Trust offered the most (29%) whilst the Southern and Western Trusts offered the least (both 8%) (Table 9).

The Belfast Trust had the highest number of completed Carers' Reassessments (61) while the Western Trust had the fewest (10).

The South Eastern Trust had the highest number of declined Carers' Reassessments (60) while the Southern Trust had the fewest (11).

Figure 11: Proportion of Carers' Reassessments Completed and Declined by HSC Trust (quarter ending 30 June 2014)



During quarter ending 30 June 2014, the Belfast, Northern and Southern Trusts had more Carers' Reassessments completed than declined (60%, 56% and 62% completed respectively) (Figure 11).

Figure 12: Proportion of Carers' Reassessments Declined by Age Group of Carer (quarter ending 30 June 2014)

Proportion of Carers' Reassessments Declined			
Aged 16&17	Aged 18-64	Aged 65-74	Aged 75&Over
0%	44%	56%	67%

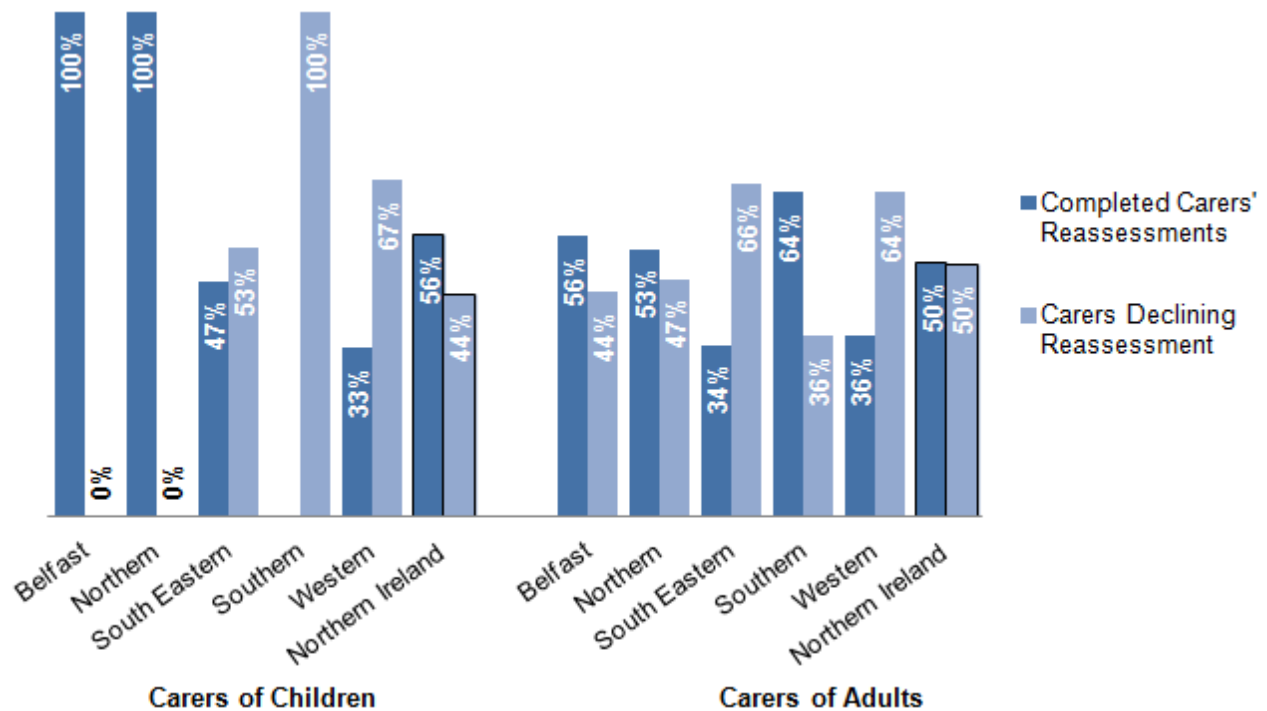
Similar to the initial Carers' Assessment, the likelihood of an offer of a Carers' Reassessment being declined increased with the age group of the carer. Of those carers aged 16 & 17, none declined a Carers' Reassessment; 44% of those aged 18-64; 56% of those aged 65-74; and 67% of those aged 75 & over also declined a Carers' Reassessment (Figure 12).

Of the 352 Carers' Reassessments offered, 77 (22%) were offered to carers of children and 275 (78%) were offered to carers of adults (Table 10).

Like initial Carers' Assessments, the uptake of Carers' Reassessments differed depending on whether the person being cared for was a child or an adult; 56% of carers caring for children and 50% of carers caring for an adult completed a Carers' Reassessment (Figure 13).

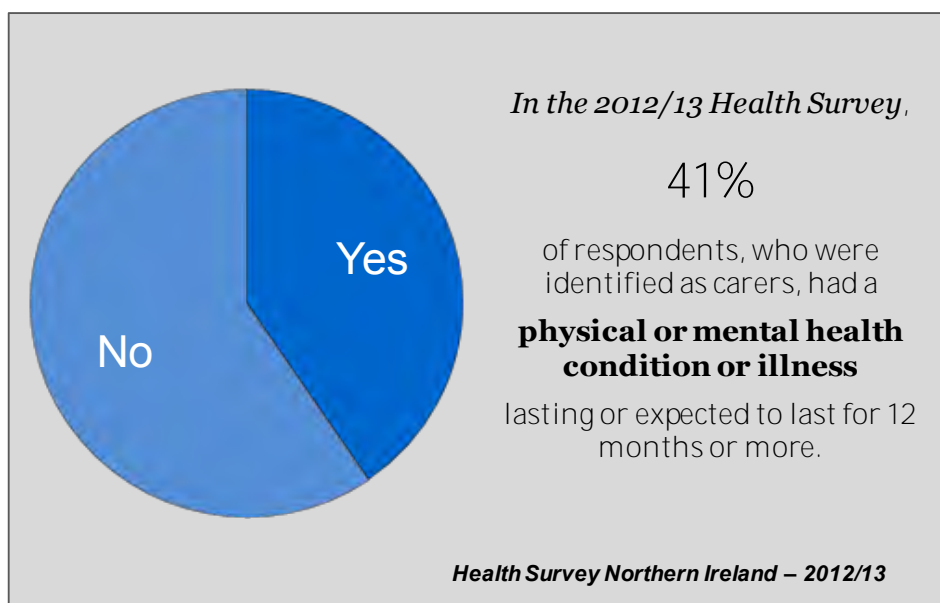
For the initial Carers' Assessment there was also a greater uptake by those carers caring for children (54%) than by those carers caring for an adult (39%) (Figure 4).

Figure 13: Proportion of Carers' Reassessments Completed and Declined for Carers of Children and Adults by HSC Trust (quarter ending 30 June 2014)



The Belfast, Northern and Southern Trusts offered the fewest Carers' Reassessments to carers of children (11, 7 and 1 respectively). All of these Carers' Reassessments were completed in the Belfast and Northern Trusts but the one offered in the Southern Trust was declined.

The number of Carers' Reassessments offered to carers of adults ranged from 14 in the Western Trust to 90 in the Belfast Trust. Overall in Northern Ireland, equal proportions of Carers' Reassessments offered to carers of adults were completed and declined.



* The Health Survey Northern Ireland is produced by the Public Health Information and Research Branch (PHIRB) and can be found at: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-public-health.htm

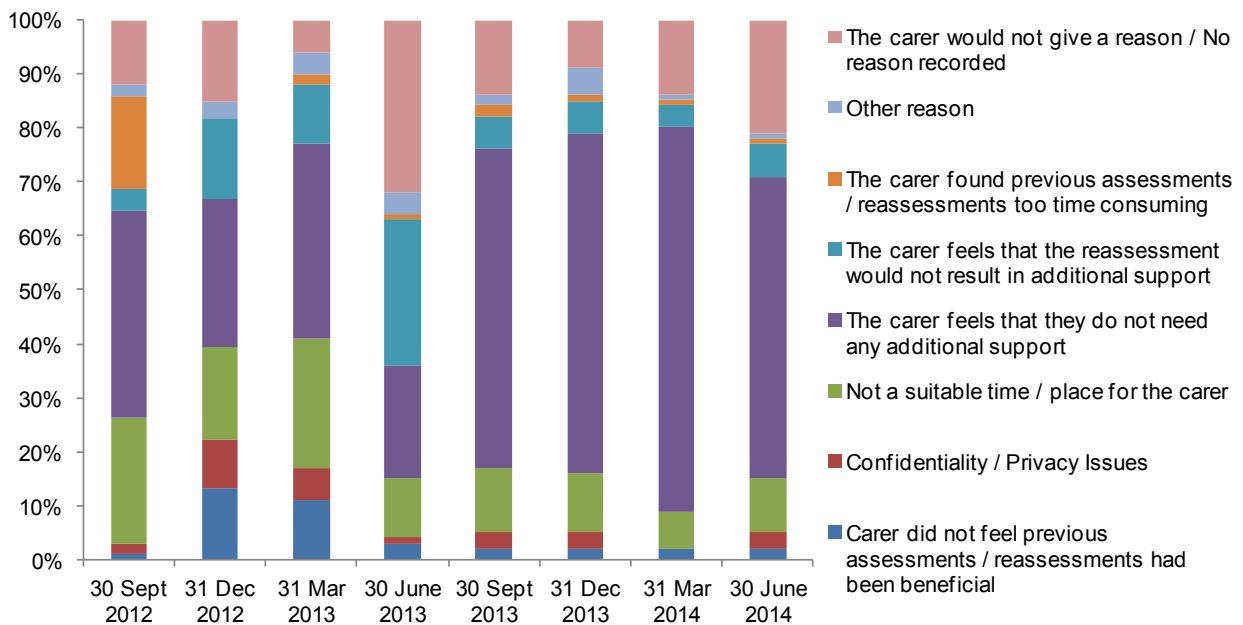
56%

*of carers who declined a reassessment felt that they **did not need any additional support.***

The most common reason given for declining a Carers' Reassessment during the quarter was that the carer felt that they did not need any additional support (56%). In fact, this has become the most prominent reason in recent quarters. During quarter ending 30 June 2014, over one in five (21%) carers provided no reason for declining a reassessment (Table 11).

Regionally, the proportions of reasons for declining a Carers' Reassessment have been variable over the past eight quarters as shown in Figure 14.

Figure 14: Reasons Given for Declining a Carers' Reassessment (quarters ending 30 September 2012 – 30 June 2014)



In recent quarters, there has been an increase in the number of carers providing no reason for declining a Carers' Reassessment; the proportion was seven percentage points higher during quarter ending 30 June 2014 (21%) than the previous quarter (14%).

During quarter ending 30 June 2014, the least frequent reasons cited by carers for declining a Carers' Reassessment were "the carer found previous assessments/ reassessments too time consuming" and "Other reason" (both 1%).

Appendix A: Technical Notes

Data Collection

The information presented in this publication derives from the quarterly CA1 and CA1b community information returns; these relate to completed and declined Carers' Assessments, Carers' Reviews, and completed and declined Carers' Reassessments.

The CA1 and CA1b returns were developed and agreed following a prolonged period of consultation by the DHSSPS with Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts and the HSC Board.

Each quarter, CA1 and CA1b information returns are completed and returned to Community Information Branch (CIB) within the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland (DHSSPSNI) by each of the five HSC Trusts.

The CA1 and CA1b information return templates are detailed in Appendix D and are also available with associated guidance notes on the DHSSPS [website](#).

Data Quality

CA1 and CA1b are validated and quality assured by HSC Trusts senior management before being submitted to CIB within DHSSPS. Further validations and consistency checks are carried out by statisticians in CIB using historical and/or other independent data to monitor emerging trends and variations within and between Trusts. A detailed validation process for the CA1 and CA1b returns is outlined on our [website](#).

Statement of Administrative Sources

A detailed 'Statement of Administrative Sources' is available on our [website](#).

Rounding Conventions

Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers and as a consequence some percentages may not sum to 100.

Disclosure Conventions

To prevent disclosure of the identity of individual carers', it may be necessary to suppress the values of cells with low counts which could otherwise be derived by means of simple arithmetic.

Our policy statement on disclosure and confidentiality is available on our [website](#).

Revisions Policy

These data are revised by exception. If revisions are required, background circumstances are reported and revision dates are noted in subsequent publications of these series of statistics. The general revisions policy for community statistics is published on our [website](#).

Related Publications

This publication can be downloaded from the DHSSPS website at:
http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/statistics_and_research-cib-pub/adult_statistics/carers'_statistics.htm

Other information relating to adult social care can be found at:
http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/statistics_and_research-cib-pub/adult_statistics.htm

The Health Survey Northern Ireland is produced by the Public Health Information & Research Branch and can be found at: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-public-health.htm

Data for the UK

The statistics detailed in this report relate to Northern Ireland only. Similar information for England, Scotland and Wales may be found as detailed below.

England

Survey of Carers' in Households – 2009/10 England

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/carersurvey0910

Personal Social Services Survey of Adult Carers' in England – 2009/10

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/psscscarersurvey0910

Community Care Statistics 2013-14: Social Services Activity Report, England – Provisional Release

[http://www.hscic.gov.uk/article/2021/Website-](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/article/2021/Website-Search?productid=14971&q=community+care+statistics&sort=Relevance&size=10&page=1&area=both#top)

[Search?productid=14971&q=community+care+statistics&sort=Relevance&size=10&page=1&area=both#top](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/article/2021/Website-Search?productid=14971&q=community+care+statistics&sort=Relevance&size=10&page=1&area=both#top)

Wales

Welsh Health Survey 2011: Health of carers

<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/welsh-health-survey/?lang=en#/statistics-and-research/welsh-health-survey/?tab=previous&lang=en>

Scotland

Information about Carers' Statistics in Scotland can be found at the following link:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/Data/Carers>

Official Statistics

These are 'Official Statistics' as defined in Section 6 of the [Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007](#). They were produced by CIB within the DHSSPSNI.

User Feedback

Any comments you have regarding this or any other publication produced by CIB are welcome. Your views help us to improve the service we provide to users of this information and to the wider public.

Feedback can be provided on our website at:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/statistics_and_research-user_engagement/cib-questionnaire.htm

Future Publications

'Carers' Statistics for Northern Ireland (quarter ending 30 September 2014)' is due for publication on 27 November 2014.

A twelve month schedule for all social care statistics produced by CIB can be found on our website at:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib.htm

Appendix B: Definitions

Carers and Direct Payments (Northern Ireland) Act 2002

The [Carers and Direct Payments Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2002](#) came into effect on 2 May 2002. This Act gives carers the right to a separate assessment of their needs and places an obligation on HSC Trusts to identify and provide information to carers. All carers providing or intending to provide care on a regular and substantial basis therefore have a legal right to have their needs assessed. The results of a Carers' Assessment should be recorded separately from that of the person cared for.

A Carer

A carer is someone who provides or intends to provide a **substantial** amount of care on a regular basis. The term 'carer' includes a person who may or may not be a relative and who may or may not be living with the person for whom they are caring. A carer provides help and support to someone, such as a family member, friend or neighbour, who may not be able to manage at home without this help because of frailty, illness or disability. A carer can be an adult caring for another adult, parents caring for ill or disabled children or young people of 16 or 17 years of age who care for someone.

It does not include someone who is providing care by virtue of a contract of employment, a volunteer working on behalf of a voluntary organisation, a foster carer or anyone who is providing personal assistance for payment either in cash or kind.

Substantial Care

The term 'substantial' is not defined in the [Carers and Direct Payments Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2002](#) but is left to professional judgement. It should not be based simply on the number of hours spent caring, but also take into consideration the impact of the caring role on the carers own health and well-being, key factors relating to the sustainability of the role and the extent of risk to the sustainability of the role.

Carers' Assessment

Carers have a right to an assessment of their needs even when the person cared for has refused an assessment for community care services, or the provision of services, provided the person cared for would be eligible for community based services.

A Carers' Assessment is the process of gathering data for the purpose of determining a carer's needs and eligibility for services to sustain their caring role. All services offered to a carer should be the outcome of an assessment of need. The assessment must be formally documented, placed on file and a copy given to the carer. The "Carers Support and Needs Assessment" component of the [Northern Ireland Single Assessment Tool \(NISAT\)](#) for assessing the health and social care needs of older people is the "tool of choice" for use in assessing the needs of carers in all programmes of care, thus ensuring a standardised approach to assessment regardless of where they live in Northern Ireland. This component was issued to Trusts in June 2009 along with associated guidance.

The assessment focuses on the needs of the carer and the purpose of the assessment is to:

- give the carer an opportunity to talk about their caring role;
- determine the support needs of the carer;
- determine whether the carer is eligible for support; and
- determine if the needs identified can be met by the Trust or other services and to make an appropriate referral.

The focus of the assessment is on the carer's ability to care and the support they need to continue in their caring role. The assessment takes account of the carer's circumstances, age, views and preferences, available support, family and other commitments. The assessment is not a test for the carer but is about recognising, valuing and supporting the carer. The process can be important in itself even

where service provision does not flow from the assessment. The decision about services to be provided should be informed by the assessments of both the carer and the person being cared for.

Carers' Review

A Carers' Review is carried out to determine whether or not support provided continues to meet the needs of the carer in sustaining their caring role. This procedure is normally planned. A reassessment would arise out of the review if the services are found to be inadequate. In the event that the outcome of the review is that the type of service is appropriate but that the level of service is inappropriate, then this should be considered as a review only and not a review plus reassessment. Reviews must be formally documented and the carer advised of the outcome.

Carers' Reassessment

A Carers' Reassessment is either a complete rework of the Carers' Assessment or an amendment to aspects of the original Carers Assessment. It is normally carried out in response to the changing needs of the carer. Reassessments must be formally documented and a copy given to the carer.

Carers' Assessments/ Reassessments Offered

The number of Carers' Assessments/ Reassessments offered is the total of those completed plus those declined (see definitions below).

Carers' Assessments Completed

This refers to all Carers' Assessments completed during the quarter, which were focused on a carer's need for support to sustain their caring role, whether they took place on the same day as the assessment of the person cared for or were conducted on a separate date.

Carers' Reassessments Completed

This refers to all Carers' Reassessments completed during the quarter in response to the changing need of the carer.

Carers' Declining a Carers' Assessment/ Reassessment

This refers to all carers that declined the offer of a Carers' Assessment/ Reassessment by Trust staff, during the quarter, for whatever reason.

Programme of Care (POC)

Programmes of Care (POC) are divisions of health care, into which activity and finance data are assigned, so as to provide a common management framework. They are used to plan and monitor the health service, by allowing performance to be measured, targets set and services managed on a comparative basis. In total there are nine POC's of which five are applicable to information on carers:

Family and Child Care (POC3)

This programme is mainly concerned with activity and resources relating to the provision of social services support for families and/or children.

Elderly Care (POC4)

This programme includes all community contacts with those aged 65 or over except where the reason for contact was mental illness or learning disability. All community contacts where the reason for the contact was dementia are included regardless of age, as well as all work relating to homes for the elderly, including those for the Elderly Mentally Infirm

Mental Health (POC5)

This programme includes all community contact where the primary reason for the contact was due to mental health.

Learning Disability (POC6)

This programme includes all community contacts where the primary reason for contact was due to learning disability. All community contacts with Down's Syndrome patients who develop dementia, for any dementia related care or treatment are included as are all contacts in learning disability homes and units.

Physical and Sensory Disability (POC7)

This programme includes all community contacts by any health professional where the primary reason for the contact is physical and/or sensory disability. All patients and clients aged 65 and over are excluded and allocated to the Elderly Care Programme.

CA1: Number of Carers for whom Assessments have been Completed during the Quarter

This return records the number of carers for whom a carers' assessment has been completed, the number of carers declining a carers' assessment and the main reason given by the carer for declining a carers' assessment during the quarter. The percentage of carers who have been assessed during the quarter is also recorded by Programme of Care of the cared for person.

Reasons for Refusing a Carers' Assessment

- A1 – the carer wants key issues as carer to remain private;
- A2 – the carer doesn't view themselves as a carer;
- A3 – it is not a suitable time/place for the carer;
- A4 – the carer feels that they do not need any support/additional support;
- A5 – the carer feels that an assessment would not result in additional support;
- A6 – the carer was concerned about the impact on their benefits/income;
- A7 – other reason (please specify); and
- A8 – the carer would not give a reason/no reason recorded.

CA1b: Number of Carers for whom Reviews and Reassessments have been Completed during the Quarter

This return records the number of carers for whom a carers' review has been completed, the number of carers for whom a carers' reassessment has been completed, the number of carers declining a carers' reassessment and the main reason given by the carer for declining a carers' reassessment during the quarter.

Reasons for Refusing a Carers' Reassessment

- B1 – the carer did not feel previous assessments/re-assessments had been beneficial;
- B2 – confidentiality/privacy issues;
- B3 – it is not a suitable time/place for the carer;
- B4 – the carer feels that they do not need any additional support;
- B5 – the carer feels that the re-assessment would not result in additional support;
- B6 – the carer found previous assessments/re-assessments too time consuming;
- B7 – other reason (please specify); and
- B8 - the carer would not give a reason/no reason recorded.

The CA1 and CA1b information return templates are detailed in Appendix D and are also available with associated guidance notes on the DHSSPS [website](#).

Appendix C: Tables

Please note that all tables can be found in excel format at:

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/statistics_and_research-cib-pub/adult_statistics/carers_statistics.htm

Table 1: Carers' Assessments Completed, Declined and Offered (quarters ending 30 September 2012 – 30 June 2014)

	30-Sep-12	31-Dec-12	31-Mar-13	30-Jun-13	30-Sep-13	31-Dec-13	31-Mar-14	30-Jun-14
Completed Assessments	1,072	1,081	1,353	1,240	1,137	1,115	1,236	1,146
Declined Assessments	1,290	1,407	1,342	1,483	1,363	1,568	1,697	1,599
Total Assessments Offered	2,362	2,488	2,695	2,723	2,500	2,683	2,933	2,745

Source: Carers' Return CA1

Table 2: Carers' Assessments Completed, Declined and Offered by Age Group of Carer and HSC Trust (quarter ending 30 June 2014)¹

Age Group of Carer	18 - 64			65 - 74			75 and over			Total		
HSC Trust	Completed Carers' Assessments	Carers Declining Assessment	Carers' Assessments Offered	Completed Carers' Assessments	Carers Declining Assessment	Carers' Assessments Offered	Completed Carers' Assessments	Carers Declining Assessment	Carers' Assessments Offered	Completed Carers' Assessments	Carers Declining Assessment	Carers' Assessments Offered
Belfast	179	160	339	41	89	130	25	62	87	245	311	556
Northern	213	199	412	83	105	188	39	51	90	335	355	690
South Eastern	148	160	308	35	80	115	12	65	77	195	305	500
Southern	208	345	553	39	35	74	21	49	70	268	429	697
Western	72	122	194	18	31	49	13	46	59	103	199	302
Northern Ireland	820	986	1,806	216	340	556	110	273	383	1,146	1,599	2,745

Source: Carers' Return CA1

¹ Figures for those aged 18-64 also include 19 completed Carers' Assessments and 6 carers who declined a Carers' Assessment, for those carers who were aged 16 or 17.

Table 3: Carers' Assessments Completed, Declined and Offered by Person being Cared for and by HSC Trust (quarter ending 30 June 2014)

Person being Cared for	Children			Adults			Total		
	Completed Carers' Assessments	Carers Declining Assessment	Carers' Assessments Offered	Completed Carers' Assessments	Carers Declining Assessment	Carers' Assessments Offered	Completed Carers' Assessments	Carers Declining Assessment	Carers' Assessments Offered
Belfast	31	0	31	214	311	525	245	311	556
Northern	59	2	61	276	353	629	335	355	690
South Eastern	37	4	41	158	301	459	195	305	500
Southern	77	174	251	191	255	446	268	429	697
Western	28	14	42	75	185	260	103	199	302
Northern Ireland	232	194	426	914	1,405	2,319	1,146	1,599	2,745

Source: Carers' Return CA1

Table 4: Reasons Given for Declining a Carers' Assessment by HSC Trust (quarter ending 30 June 2014)¹

HSC Trust	Main Reason a Carer Declined a Carers' Assessment								Total
	The carer wants key issues as a carer to remain private	The carer doesn't view themselves as a carer	It is not a suitable time / place for the carer	The carer feels that they do not need any support / additional support	The carer feels that an assessment would not result in additional support	The carer was concerned about the impact on their benefits / income	Other reason	The carer would not give a reason / No reason recorded	
Belfast	23	46	40	95	-	-	38	62	311
Northern	29	63	76	139	-	-	0	19	355
South Eastern	-	47	31	188	23	-	14	0	305
Southern	-	51	25	86	15	-	0	242	429
Western	-	26	64	39	10	-	11	46	199
Northern Ireland	62	233	236	547	81	8	63	369	1,599

Source: Carers' Return CA1

¹ "-" represents a cell count less than 4 and has been suppressed in order to avoid personal disclosure. In addition, where a suppressed cell may be deduced from the totals, appropriate cells have also been suppressed.

Table 5: Percentage of Carers Assessed by Programme of Care (of Cared for Person) and by HSC Trust (quarter ending 30 June 2014)

HSC Trust	Programme of Care					% Total
	% Family and Child Care (POC3)	% Elderly (POC4)	% Mental Health (POC5)	% Learning Disability (POC6)	% Physical and Sensory Disability (POC7)	
Belfast	12	44	17	5	22	100
Northern	19	42	25	6	8	100
South Eastern	19	35	22	11	13	100
Southern	21	37	12	14	16	100
Western	0	61	11	13	15	100

Source: Carers' Return CA1

Table 6: Completed Carers' Reviews and Carers' Reassessments Completed, Declined and Offered (quarters ending 30 September 2012 – 30 June 2014)

	30-Sep-12	31-Dec-12	31-Mar-13	30-Jun-13	30-Sep-13	31-Dec-13	31-Mar-14	30-Jun-14
Completed Reviews	387	533	587	611	463	636	931	815
Completed Reassessments	137	157	169	200	227	154	219	181
Declined Reassessments	121	128	142	137	176	171	165	171
Total Reassessments Offered	258	285	311	337	403	325	384	352

Source: Carers' Return CA1b

Table 7: Completed Carers' Reviews by Age Group of Carer and by HSC Trust (quarter ending 30 June 2014)^{1,2}

HSC Trust	Age Group of Carer		Total
	18 - 64	65 and over	
Belfast	39	21	60
Northern	278	107	385
South Eastern	127	6	133
Southern	133	10	143
Western	47	47	94
Northern Ireland	624	191	815

Source: Carers' Return CA1b

¹ Figures for those aged 18-64 also includes 35 completed Carers' Reviews for those carers who were aged 16 or 17.

² Figures for those aged 65 and over also includes 74 carers aged 75 and over who completed a Carers' Review.

Table 8: Completed Carers' Reviews by Person being Cared for and by HSC Trust (quarter ending 30 June 2014)

HSC Trust	Person Being Cared for		Total
	Child/Children	Adult/s	
Belfast	11	49	60
Northern	89	296	385
South Eastern	110	23	133
Southern	106	37	143
Western	5	89	94
Northern Ireland	321	494	815

Source: Carers' Return CA1b

Table 9: Carers' Reassessments Completed and Declined by Age Group of Carer and by HSC Trust (quarter ending 30 June 2014)^{1,2}

Age Group of Carer	18 - 64			65 and over			Total		
HSC Trust	Completed Carers' Reassessments	Carers Declining Reassessment	Carers' Reassessments Offered	Completed Carers' Reassessments	Carers Declining Reassessment	Carers' Reassessments Offered	Completed Carers' Reassessments	Carers Declining Reassessment	Carers' Reassessments Offered
Belfast	59	15	74	2	25	27	61	40	101
Northern	24	24	48	29	17	46	53	41	94
South Eastern	35	49	84	4	11	15	39	60	99
Southern	11	2	13	7	9	16	18	11	29
Western	8	17	25	2	2	4	10	19	29
Northern Ireland	137	107	244	44	64	108	181	171	352

Source: Carers' Return CA1b

¹ Figures for those aged 18-64 also include 1 completed Carers' Reassessment for those carers who were aged 16 or 17.

² Figures for those aged 65 and over also include 12 completed Carers' Reassessments and 24 carers declining a Carers' Reassessment for those carers who were aged 75 and over.

Table 10: Carers' Reassessments Completed, Declined and Offered by Person being Cared for and by HSC Trust (quarter ending 30 June 2014)

Person being Cared for	Children			Adults			Total		
HSC Trust	Completed Carers' Assessments	Carers Declining Assessment	Carers' Reassessments Offered	Completed Carers' Assessments	Carers Declining Assessment	Carers' Reassessments Offered	Completed Carers' Assessments	Carers Declining Assessment	Carers' Reassessments Offered
Belfast	11	0	11	50	40	90	61	40	101
Northern	7	0	7	46	41	87	53	41	94
South Eastern	20	23	43	19	37	56	39	60	99
Southern	0	1	1	18	10	28	18	11	29
Western	5	10	15	5	9	14	10	19	29
Northern Ireland	43	34	77	138	137	275	181	171	352

Source: Carers' Return CA1b

Table 11: Reasons Given for Declining a Carers' Reassessment (quarter ending 30 June 2014)¹

	Northern Ireland
Carer did not feel previous assessments / reassessments had been beneficial	<5
Confidentiality / Privacy Issues	5
Not a suitable time / place for the carer	17
The carer feels that they do not need any additional support	95
The carer feels that the reassessment would not result in additional support	11
The carer found previous assessments / reassessments too time consuming	<5
Other reason	<5
The carer would not give a reason / No reason recorded	36
Total	171

Source: Carers' Return CA1b

¹ A figure of <5 has been used in order to avoid personal disclosure.

Appendix D: CA1 and CA1b Information Returns

NUMBER OF CARERS FOR WHOM ASSESSMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED DURING THE QUARTER

CA1

In Effect from 1st January 2009

Contact Name:
 Contact telephone number:
 HSC Trust:
 Quarter Ending:

Carers' Assessments

To view the guidance for this form, select the Guidance Button on the top right hand side of the screen.

Person being cared for	Age group of Carer	Number of carers for whom a carer's assessment has been completed during quarter	Number of carers declining a carer's assessment	Main reason carer declined a carer's assessment <i>(Select each code below for a definition of what should be included)</i>								
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	
Child / Children	1. 16 & 17											
	2. 18-64											
	3. 65-74											
	4. 75 and over											
	All ages											
Adult/s	1. 16 & 17											
	2. 18-64											
	3. 65-74											
	4. 75 and over											
	All ages											

Percentage of carers who have been assessed during the quarter within Programme of Care of the cared for person

Programme of Care of <u>cared for person</u>	Percentage of carers who have been assessed during the quarter within each POC
Family and Child Care (POC 3)	
Elderly (POC 4)	
Mental Health (POC 5)	
Learning Disability (POC 6)	
Physical & Sensory Disability (POC 7)	
All Programmes of Care	

Providers comment:

Other reasons for declining an assessment:

In Effect from 1st January 2009

Contact Name:

Contact telephone number:

HSC Trust:

Quarter Ending:

Carers' Reviews And Reassessments

Person being Cared for	Age group of Carer	Number of carers for whom a carer's review has been completed during quarter	Number of carers for whom a carer's reassessment has been completed during	Number of carers declining a carer's reassessment during quarter	Main reason carer declined carer's reassessment <i>(Select each code below for a definition of what should be included)</i>							
					B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8
Child / Children	1. 16 & 17											
	2. 18-64											
	3. 65-74											
	4. 75 and over											
	All ages											
Adult/s	1. 16 & 17											
	2. 18-64											
	3. 65-74											
	4. 75 and over											
	All ages											

Providers comment:

Additional Information

Further information on Carers' Statistics for Northern Ireland (Quarter ending 30th June 2014) is available from:

Philip Carson
Community Information Branch
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Annexe 2
Castle Buildings
Stormont
BT4 3SQ

Phone: (028) 9052 8134
Fax: (028) 9052 3288
Email: cib@dhsspsni.gov.uk

This and other statistical bulletins published by Community Information Branch are available to download on the DHSSPS website at:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/statistics_and_research-cib-pub.htm

This publication can be requested in large print or other formats.