



# **The Amputee Statistical Database for the United Kingdom**

**2006/07**

Information Services Division  
NHSScotland

on behalf of  
National Amputee Statistical Database  
(NASDAB)

Edinburgh 2009

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یہ طبع مختلف زبانوں اور بڑے چھاب میں دستیاب کی جاسکتی ہے، برائلی (صرف انگریزی میں)۔ اپنی کمیونٹی کے زبان میں اس طبع کے ترجمے کے بارے میں معلومات حاصل کرنے کے لئے، براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر فون کیجئے۔

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## Current membership of the NASDAB steering group

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Ms Sue Walker, Stanmore Disablement Services Centre

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## Introduction

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This is the tenth in a series of Annual Reports based on data provided from the 43 prosthetics service centres in the United Kingdom. The publication presents information on new referrals to prosthetics service centres from 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2007. This report provides age and gender profiles of amputees referred to prosthetics centres, as well as level and cause of amputation and national trend information.

### Points of interest

- During the period 1st April 2006 – 31st March 2007 there were a total of 4957 new referrals to prosthetics service centres in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. This is less than the number of amputees referred in the previous year (5000).
- Nationally 70 per cent of referrals to prosthetics centres are made within 1 month of amputation being carried out.
- The gender breakdown of new referrals is similar to previous years. In 2006/07 female referrals account for 29 per cent of all new referrals to prosthetics service centres.
- Males present to prosthetic service centres at an earlier age than women. The national median age of referrals for males is 65 and for females it is 69 years of age. This is similar to previous years.
- Over half of all amputees referred to prosthetics centres are aged over 65 with more than a quarter aged 75 and over.
- Looking at males and females separately, 24 per cent of all male referrals fall within the 75 and over age group compared to 37 per cent of all females.
- Referrals following lower limb amputation account for 92 per cent of all amputees referred. Those patients referred following an upper limb amputation represent 4 per cent and congenital absence cases account for 3 per cent of all referrals. This is similar to previous years.
- The most common level of amputation for referrals continues to be at the trans-tibial level accounting for almost half of all referrals.
- Seventy per cent of referrals are following an amputation because of dysvascularity.
- Diabetes as a cause of amputation currently accounts for almost one third of all referrals to prosthetics centres.
- Variation across centres in the percentage of patients referred following trans-tibial and trans-femoral amputations continues. Nationally 53 per cent of lower limb referrals are at trans-tibial level and 39 per cent at trans-femoral level.
- Forty-three per cent of all upper limb referrals are following trans-humeral or trans-radial amputations. Partial hand and upper digit amputees account for 41 per cent of upper limb referrals.
- Upper limb referrals tend to be in the younger age groups reflecting the aetiology of the condition (mainly trauma). Almost three quarters of all upper limb referrals were aged less than 55 years. This is similar to previous years.



UK PROSTHETICS SERVICES  
**NEW REFERRALS**

# Referrals to UK Prosthetics Services

## New referrals

The table below shows the total number of referrals to each of the UK's prosthetics service centres for the four quarters ending 31st March 2007. The number of amputees referred to prosthetics centres (4957) across the UK is slightly lower than reported last year (5000).

The number of new referrals seen by centres varies enormously, probably reflecting the size of their catchment population. For example, 298 amputees were referred to the centre in Manchester compared to 31 in Inverness. This has implications for the size of the service required and costs required to run these centres.

Table 1 New referrals to prosthetics service centres : 2006/07

Prosthetics Service Centre	Quarter ending				Total No. referrals 2006/07	Total No. referrals 2005/06
	30 June 2006	30 Sept 2006	31 Dec 2006	31 March 2007		
Aberdeen	16	17	12	22	67	69
Belfast	30	40	24	31	125	106
Birmingham	74	79	57	69	279	284
Bristol	31	29	27	23	110	132
Cambridge	30	21	31	23	105	99
Cardiff	48	41	38	32	159	139
Carlisle <sup>1</sup>	9	9	10	5	33	33
Cleveland <sup>1</sup>	32	29	39	23	123	123
Derby	8	11	15	12	46	55
Dorset	26	19	14	15	74	91
Dundee	26	25	16	29	96	79
Edinburgh	18	13	18	20	69	85
Exeter	46	34	27	38	145	158
Gillingham	45	41	41	73	200	170
Glasgow (Westmarc)	52	45	58	76	231	239
Hull	23	23	15	19	80	86
Inverness	8	11	6	6	31	25
Isle of Wight <sup>2</sup>	3	7	3	2	15	15
Leeds	49	45	42	44	180	176
Leicester	20	27	19	24	90	43
Liverpool (Fazakerley)	29	32	28	35	124	132
London (Bowley Close)	22	17	22	18	79	69
London (Charing Cross)	10	8	11	11	40	77
London (Harold Wood)	52	64	58	57	231	251
London (Roehampton)	29	19	23	36	107	108
London (Stanmore)	30	31	30	25	116	147
Luton & Dunstable	22	10	24	22	78	62
Manchester	90	78	64	66	298	235
Newcastle	34	40	42	33	149	131
Northampton	18	17	18	16	69	60
Norwich	18	25	22	18	83	88
Nottingham	45	27	35	29	136	123
Oxford	32	31	35	25	123	149
Plymouth	24	20	26	29	99	84
Portsmouth	21	18	14	9	62	85 <sup>3</sup>
Preston	39	35	41	50	165	130
Sheffield	47	44	50	51	192	198
Stoke	20	18	23	31	92	126
Sussex	18	33	23	25	99	123
Swansea	24	35	27	16	102	130
Wirral	22	15	19	19	75	102
Wolverhampton <sup>1</sup>	35	27	31	29	122	122
Wrexham	16	16	16	10	58	57
All centres <sup>4</sup>	1291	1226	1194	1246	4957	5000

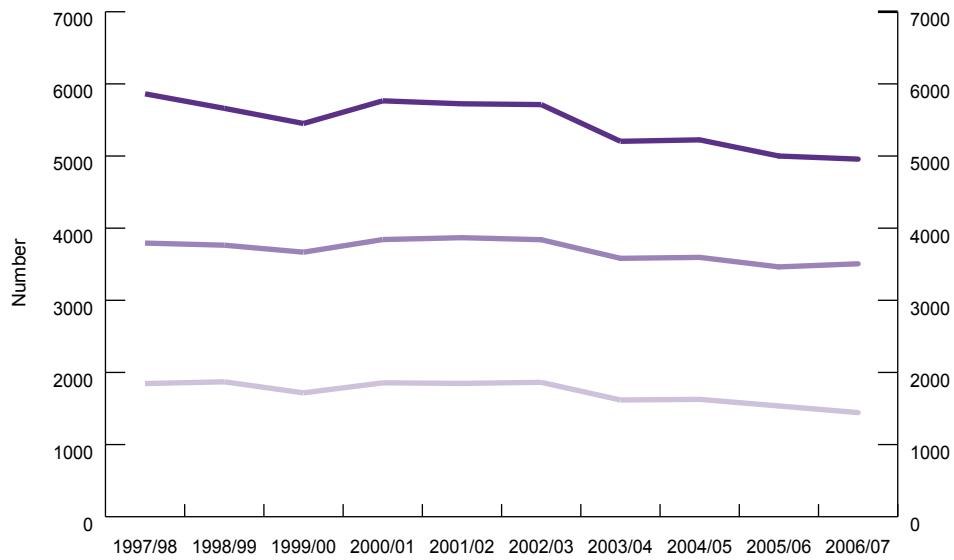
1 2005/06 data.

2 2000/01 data.

3 2004/05 data.

4 2005/06 total includes Glasgow (Strathclyde University)

Chart 1 Number of new referrals per year by gender April 1997 to March 2007



All	5862	5661	5451	5765	5724	5713	5204	5224	5000	4957
Male	3793	3764	3667	3842	3868	3840	3582	3595	3463	3506
Female	1846	1870	1717	1856	1848	1863	1618	1627	1533	1443

Note: All includes referrals where gender is not specified.

The total number of referrals to prosthetics centres has fallen slightly in 2006/07. This is the lowest number recorded since data collection began in 1997/98. The gender split between patients is constant over time with approximately one-third of all new referrals being female.

# Referrals to UK Prosthetics Services

## Gender and age

The median age at each centre varies across the UK ranging from 59-71 years. Dorset and Stoke have the highest median age of 71 and Nottingham the lowest at 59, with 3 in every 5 patients being less than 65 years old.

Table 2 Gender and age; by prosthetics service centre : 2006/07

Prosthetics Service Centre	Males					All ages	Median age
	less than 16	16-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over		
Aberdeen	2	9	15	13	10	49	64
Belfast	4	25	18	20	21	88	64
Birmingham	8	53	45	42	42	190	63
Bristol	1	23	11	17	25	77	67
Cambridge	-	18	14	19	21	72	67
Cardiff	1	28	23	35	27	114	67
Carlisle <sup>1</sup>	1	2	5	8	5	21	67
Cleveland <sup>1</sup>	-	14	20	29	27	90	69
Derby	3	5	5	6	9	28	66
Dorset	-	11	12	14	15	52	67
Dundee	1	14	17	17	18	67	65
Edinburgh	2	15	15	14	7	53	63
Exeter	1	20	14	26	35	96	69
Gillingham	3	27	34	40	37	141	67
Glasgow (Westmarc)	2	35	36	60	32	165	65
Hull	1	11	16	24	12	64	67
Inverness	1	7	4	3	11	26	66
Isle of Wight <sup>2</sup>	-	2	2	4	4	12	71
Leeds	4	50	21	41	23	139	63
Leicester	1	17	15	14	17	64	64
Liverpool (Fazakerley)	3	21	18	30	20	92	66
London (Bowley Close)	3	15	14	12	9	53	61
London (Charing Cross)	1	9	5	12	3	30	64
London (Harold Wood)	-	39	22	42	50	153	69
London (Roehampton)	2	23	10	20	17	72	65
London (Stanmore)	6	28	13	9	24	80	61
Luton & Dunstable	1	9	10	21	7	48	67
Manchester	9	72	50	52	35	218	62
Newcastle	6	27	23	29	26	111	64
Northampton	3	13	12	11	10	49	63
Norwich	1	20	13	13	15	62	63
Nottingham	5	29	30	25	10	99	59
Oxford	1	30	24	20	22	97	63
Plymouth	2	13	15	12	20	62	67
Portsmouth	2	9	10	11	12	44	66
Preston	-	34	39	24	24	121	62
Sheffield	2	26	29	46	35	138	66
Stoke	-	13	14	17	23	67	68
Sussex	2	13	15	12	22	64	65
Swansea	1	13	20	25	21	80	67
Wirral	1	8	11	11	16	47	69
Wolverhampton <sup>1</sup>	1	11	20	21	23	76	69
Wrexham	2	6	6	11	10	35	69
<b>All centres</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>3506</b>	<b>65</b>

<sup>1</sup> 2005/06 data.

<sup>2</sup> 2000/01 data.

## Referrals to UK Prosthetics Services

There is a marked gender difference in median age at presentation, with males tending to present at a younger age. The median age for males is 65 and for females it is 69 years of age. At an individual centre level, median age varies from 59 to 71 for males and 50 to 77 for females (excluding Isle of Wight).

Almost a quarter of males and over a third of females were aged 75 or over at the time of referral.

Females							Gender Unspecified	Total All Referrals	Median Age All Referrals	Prosthetics Service Centre
less than 16	16-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	All ages	Median age				
-	3	1	6	8	18	68	-	67	65	Aberdeen
3	12	7	5	10	37	61	-	125	63	Belfast
5	13	11	13	47	89	76	-	279	65	Birmingham
2	6	4	7	14	33	73	-	110	69	Bristol
4	7	3	9	10	33	69	-	105	67	Cambridge
1	10	5	10	18	44	71	1	159	68	Cardiff
1	3	1	3	4	12	68	-	33	67	Carlisle <sup>1</sup>
1	10	6	8	8	33	61	-	123	68	Cleveland <sup>1</sup>
-	3	4	4	7	18	69	-	46	68	Derby
-	1	3	7	11	22	74	-	74	71	Dorset
-	6	3	7	13	29	74	-	96	68	Dundee
2	3	2	4	5	16	69	-	69	63	Edinburgh
1	9	5	8	26	49	75	-	145	70	Exeter
2	10	8	10	29	59	74	-	200	69	Gillingham
1	15	11	22	17	66	69	-	231	66	Glasgow (Westmarc)
-	6	2	3	5	16	65	-	80	67	Hull
-	3	1	-	1	5	50	-	31	64	Inverness
-	1	-	-	2	3	81	-	15	71	Isle of Wight <sup>2</sup>
2	16	6	7	10	41	57	-	180	62	Leeds
1	5	3	11	6	26	69	-	90	65	Leicester
-	8	5	7	12	32	70	-	124	66	Liverpool (Fazakerley)
2	11	4	2	7	26	57	-	79	61	London (Bowley Close)
-	1	4	-	5	10	70	-	40	65	London (Charing Cross)
-	18	5	18	37	78	73	-	231	70	London (Harold Wood)
6	9	3	6	11	35	62	-	107	65	London (Roehampton)
4	12	3	5	12	36	60	-	116	61	London (Stanmore)
-	6	6	4	14	30	70	-	78	67	Luton & Dunstable
10	15	9	20	24	78	67	2	298	62	Manchester
6	11	3	9	9	38	61	-	149	63	Newcastle
1	2	9	3	5	20	63	-	69	63	Northampton
-	5	4	5	7	21	67	-	83	64	Norwich
4	12	8	5	6	35	56	2	136	59	Nottingham
2	10	4	5	5	26	57	-	123	62	Oxford
-	9	4	5	19	37	76	-	99	70	Plymouth
-	3	3	7	5	18	71	-	62	68	Portsmouth
5	11	9	10	9	44	62	-	165	62	Preston
2	9	11	11	20	53	71	1	192	67	Sheffield
-	4	1	9	11	25	74	-	92	71	Stoke
1	4	4	9	15	33	74	2	99	70	Sussex
2	2	2	3	13	22	77	-	102	68	Swansea
-	5	10	6	7	28	64	-	75	66	Wirral
1	5	7	12	21	46	71	-	122	70	Wolverhampton <sup>1</sup>
1	6	2	6	8	23	70	-	58	69	Wrexham
<b>73</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>1443</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4 957</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>All centres</b>

# Referrals to UK Prosthetics Services

Chart 2a Percentage of new referrals by age : 2006/07

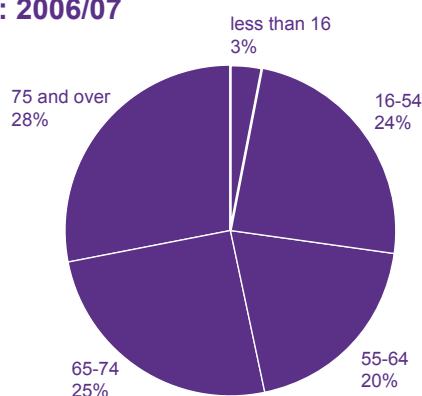


Chart 2a presents the percentage of new referrals by age. Twenty-eight per cent of all referrals are aged 75 years and over at the time of referral. This chart also highlights the relatively small number of patients aged under 16 (3% of all new referrals). However, the need for support from centres for these patients will extend to a much longer time frame than the other patients.

Chart 2b Number of new referrals by age and gender : 2006/07

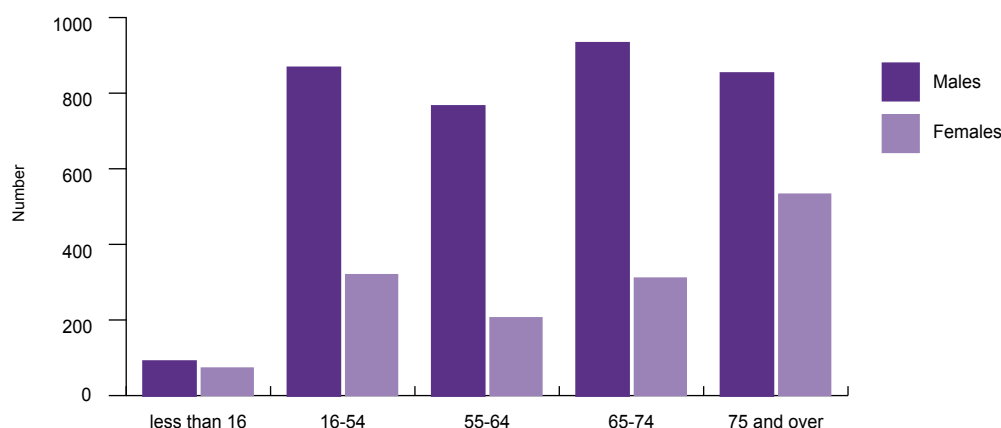


Chart 2b shows the number of new referrals split by age and gender highlighting the difference in the number of males and females referred. Within all age groups there are more male than female referrals, with just over two thirds of all referrals being male.

Chart 2c Percentage of new referrals by age and gender : 2006/07

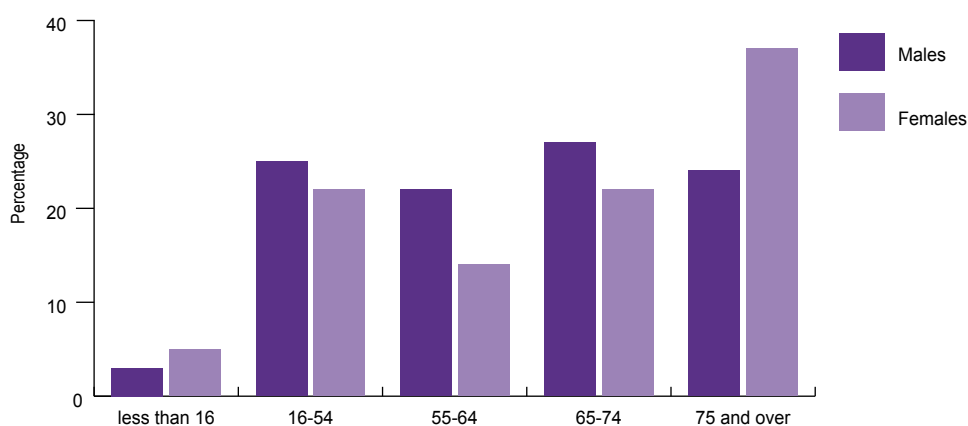


Chart 2c highlights the difference in age at presentation between males and females, with females tending to be older. This is demonstrated in the 75 and over age group where 37 per cent of females are this age compared to 28 per cent of males referrals.

Chart 2d Number of new referrals by age and year April 1997 to March 2007

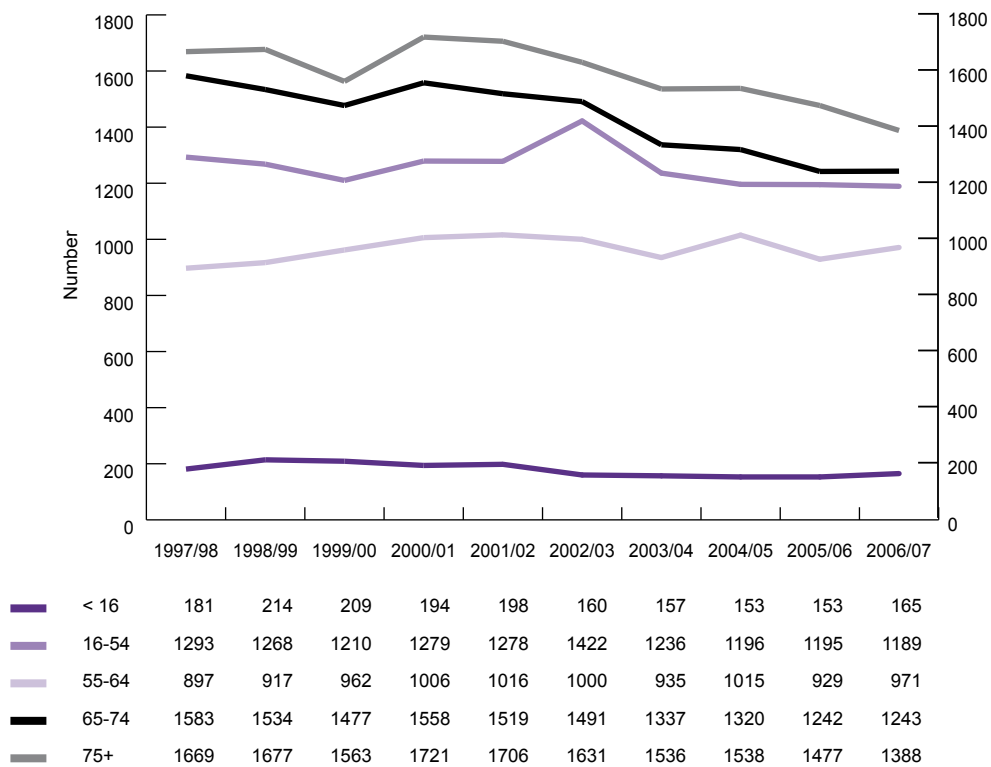
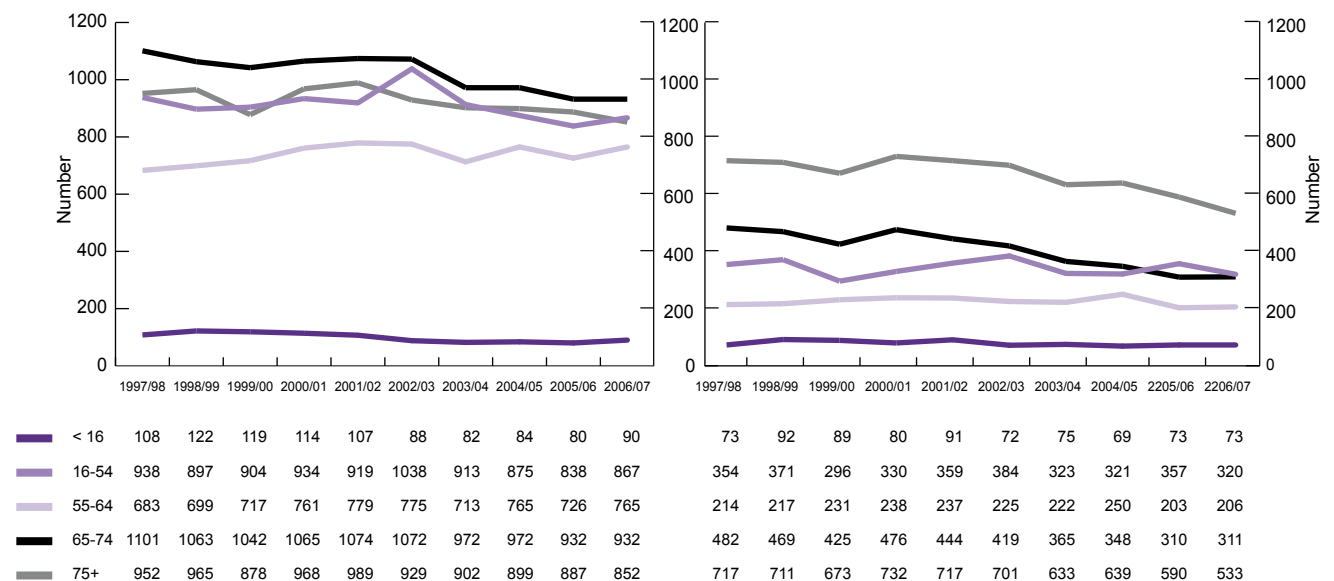


Chart 2d shows a downward trend in the number of referrals within the older age groups (65-74 and 75+).

Chart 2e Number of new male referrals by age and year April 1997 to March 2007

Chart 2f Number of new female referrals by age and year April 1997 to March 2007



Charts 2e and 2f show separately by gender the number of referrals over time. Consistently the most common age group for male referrals is 65 – 74 compared to the over 75 age group for female referrals.

# Referrals to UK Prosthetics Services

## Level amputation

The completeness in the recording of level of amputation at centres continues to be very good with only one record submitted without a level of amputation recorded. Of the 4956 referrals the great majority (92%) were referred following a lower limb amputation. Upper limb deficiency accounts for around 4 per cent and congenital absence accounts of upper and lower limbs account for 3 per cent of all referrals.

Referral following amputation of upper digits is the most common level of upper limb loss at 27 per cent. The next most common level is trans-humeral accounting for one quarter of all upper limb referrals.

Table 3 Level of amputation and congenital absence; by prosthetics service centre : 2006/07

Prosthetics Service Centre	Upper Limb Amputations <sup>1</sup>									Total
	Fore quarter	Shoulder disarticulation	Trans-humeral	Elbow disarticulation	Trans-radial	Wrist disarticulation	Partial hand	Upper Digits	Double upper amp.	
Aberdeen	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	4
Belfast	-	1	1	1	2	-	1	2	-	8
Birmingham	-	1	6	-	2	1	1	17	1	29
Bristol	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	5
Cambridge	1	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	5
Cardiff	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	4
Carlisle <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleveland <sup>4</sup>	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	3
Derby <sup>5</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dorset	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	3
Dundee	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Edinburgh	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	4
Exeter	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Gillingham	-	-	4	-	2	-	1	-	-	7
Glasgow (Westmarc)	-	1	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	7
Hull	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	4
Inverness	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Isle of Wight <sup>5,6</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leeds	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	4	2	11
Leicester	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	5
Liverpool (Fazakerley)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
London (Bowley Close)	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	-	7
London (Charing Cross)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
London (Harold Wood)	-	2	4	-	1	-	2	-	-	9
London (Roehampton)	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	3	-	8
London (Stanmore)	-	-	2	-	5	-	-	-	-	7
Luton & Dunstable <sup>5</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manchester	1	-	6	-	1	-	4	4	1	17
Newcastle	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	4
Northampton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norwich	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Nottingham	1	-	1	-	3	-	-	11	3	19
Oxford	-	1	-	1	3	-	2	-	1	8
Plymouth	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Portsmouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Preston	-	-	3	-	1	-	8	-	-	12
Sheffield	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Stoke <sup>5</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sussex	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
Swansea	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
Wirral	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Wolverhampton <sup>4,5</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wrexham	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
<b>All centre</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>215</b>

1 See also the Upper Limb Amputation tables 5 - 8 for additional details.

2 See also the Lower Limb Amputation tables 9 - 12 for additional details.

3 See also the Miscellaneous Group of Amputation tables 13 - 14 for additional details on complex amputations and congenital absence.

4 2005/06 data.

5 Derby, Isle of Wight, Luton and Dunstable, Stoke and Wolverhampton do not provide an upper limb service.

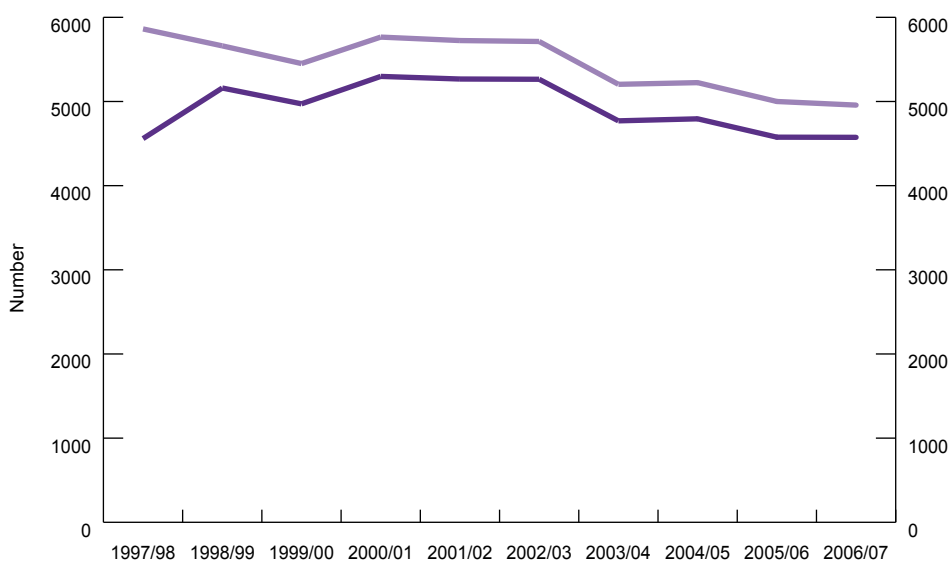
6 2000/01 data.

For lower limb referrals the trans-tibial level is the most common at 53 per cent. Trans-femoral is the next most common accounting for 39 per cent of all lower limb referrals.

Lower Limb Amputations <sup>2</sup>										Miscellaneous Amputations <sup>3</sup>					Total	Prosthetics Service Centre	
Hemi-pelvec-tomy	Hip disartic-ulation	Trans-fem-oral	Knee disartic-ulation	Trans-tibial	Ankle disartic-ulation	Partial foot	Lower digits	Double lower amp.	Total	Cross-site amp.	Quad-ruple amp.	Con-genital absence	No level provided	Total			
-	1	29	-	28	-	-	1	4	63	-	-	-	-	67	Aberdeen		
-	1	46	1	50	-	1	2	6	107	-	-	1	9	10	125	Belfast	
-	-	99	7	120	-	-	10	5	241	-	-	2	7	9	279	Birmingham	
1	-	42	1	56	1	1	-	2	104	-	-	-	1	1	110	Bristol	
-	3	39	1	46	-	1	-	7	97	-	-	-	3	3	105	Cambridge	
-	1	54	-	85	-	4	-	8	152	-	-	-	3	3	159	Cardiff	
-	-	10	1	18	-	-	-	2	31	-	-	-	2	2	33	Carlisle <sup>4</sup>	
-	-	57	-	58	-	3	1	1	120	-	-	-	-	-	123	Cleveland <sup>4</sup>	
-	-	16	1	28	-	-	-	1	46	-	-	-	-	-	46	Derby <sup>5</sup>	
-	-	35	1	31	-	1	-	3	71	-	-	-	-	-	74	Dorset	
-	-	43	1	42	-	-	-	4	90	2	-	-	2	4	96	Dundee	
-	-	13	-	46	2	-	-	4	65	-	-	-	-	-	69	Edinburgh	
1	-	53	2	72	-	2	-	11	141	-	-	-	2	2	145	Exeter	
-	-	81	4	95	-	4	1	2	187	-	-	-	6	6	200	Gillingham	
-	-	62	-	141	1	1	-	11	216	1	-	-	7	8	231	Glasgow (Westmarc)	
-	-	30	-	44	-	1	-	1	76	-	-	-	-	-	80	Hull	
-	-	2	-	26	-	-	-	1	29	-	-	-	1	1	31	Inverness	
-	-	6	-	9	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	15	Isle of Wight <sup>5,6</sup>	
1	1	65	2	78	2	-	-	8	157	-	-	1	10	12	180	Leeds	
-	4	28	-	47	-	1	-	5	85	-	-	-	-	-	90	Leicester	
1	-	57	1	54	1	-	-	4	118	-	-	-	5	5	124	Liverpool (Fazakerley)	
-	2	26	2	31	-	2	-	7	70	-	-	-	2	2	79	London (Bowley Close)	
-	-	7	3	27	-	-	-	3	40	-	-	-	-	-	40	London (Charing Cross)	
-	3	68	-	132	-	5	-	7	215	1	-	-	6	7	231	London (Harold Wood)	
1	-	31	1	57	-	1	1	1	93	-	1	-	5	6	107	London (Roehampton)	
4	-	39	3	41	-	3	-	7	97	1	-	-	11	12	116	London (Stanmore)	
-	1	36	1	34	-	2	-	2	76	-	-	-	2	2	78	Luton & Dunstable <sup>5</sup>	
-	1	93	4	145	2	3	-	14	262	-	1	1	17	19	298	Manchester	
2	-	52	1	69	-	1	-	12	137	2	-	-	6	8	149	Newcastle	
-	-	22	1	41	-	-	-	2	66	-	-	-	3	3	69	Northampton	
-	1	26	-	47	-	-	1	3	78	-	-	-	3	3	83	Norwich	
-	1	44	2	56	1	1	-	4	109	-	-	-	8	8	136	Nottingham	
-	-	40	-	59	1	2	-	6	108	1	1	-	5	7	123	Oxford	
-	-	33	1	57	-	-	-	4	95	-	-	-	1	1	99	Plymouth	
1	1	18	1	35	1	-	-	2	59	-	-	-	1	1	62	Portsmouth	
-	1	57	1	71	1	6	-	9	146	-	-	-	7	7	165	Preston	
-	2	80	1	92	-	1	-	8	184	-	-	-	7	7	192	Sheffield	
-	-	40	-	49	-	-	-	3	92	-	-	-	-	-	92	Stoke <sup>5</sup>	
1	1	35	7	44	1	2	-	1	92	-	-	-	2	2	99	Sussex	
1	-	37	-	56	-	-	-	3	97	-	-	-	3	3	102	Swansea	
-	1	44	-	25	-	1	-	1	72	-	-	-	-	-	75	Wirral	
-	-	67	5	42	-	1	-	6	121	-	-	-	1	1	122	Wolverhampton <sup>4,5</sup>	
-	-	26	-	27	-	-	-	1	54	-	-	-	3	3	58	Wrexham	
14	26	1788	57	2411	14	51	17	196	4 574	8	3	5	151	1	168	4 957	All centre

## Referrals to UK Prosthetics Services

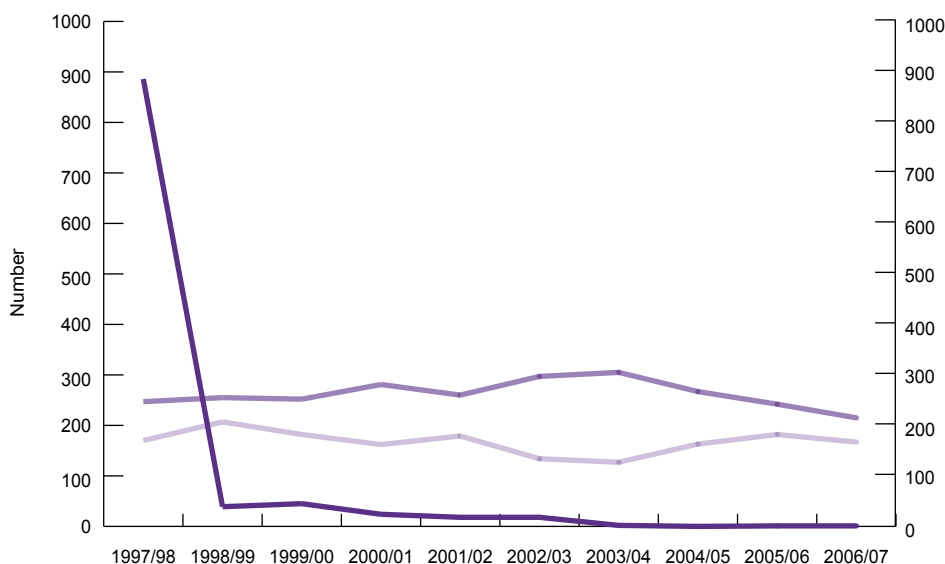
Chart **3a** Number of total and lower limb amputations by year April 1997 to March 2007



Lower Amputations	4559	5160	4972	5298	5267	5264	4770	4794	4576	4574
All Amputations	5862	5661	5451	5765	5724	5713	5204	5224	5000	4957

There is a consistent pattern over time with lower limb amputees accounting for more than 90 per cent of all new referrals.

Chart **3b** Number of upper limb and miscellaneous amputations by year April 1997 to March 2007



Upper Amputations	247	255	252	281	260	297	305	267	242	215
Miscellaneous Amputations	170	207	182	162	179	134	127	163	182	167
No level provided	886	39	45	24	18	18	2	0	1	1

The percentage of referrals for upper limb (4%) and miscellaneous amputations (3%) in 2006/07 is similar to previous years

## Time interval between amputation and referral

Table 4 below shows the time between amputation being carried out and the referral to the prosthetics service centre. Again this year we have focussed on the time period of 1 to 3 months. Nationally 70 per cent of patients are referred within a month of their amputation. However there is considerable variation between the individual centres.

This table contains valuable information but requires careful interpretation. Differences in surgical and physiotherapy practice as well as the operational policies of the centre may account for the variation by centres in referral time during the first 6 months following an amputation. Reasons for referral to take place 6 months or more after amputation may be because of intercurrent disease episodes, late improvement in condition, individuals moving into the NHS as established amputees or patient choice.

**Table 4** Time interval from amputation to receipt of referral by prosthetics service centre : 2006/07

Prosthetics Service Centre	Time Interval							Total number
	< 1 mth	1-2 mths	2-3 mths	3-6 mths	6-12 mths	>12 mths	Unknown	
	Percentages <sup>3</sup>							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Aberdeen	91	3	1	3	-	1	-	67
Belfast	75	5	8	4	5	3	-	119
Birmingham	80	7	2	3	1	7	-	272
Bristol	63	16	5	11	1	5	-	109
Cambridge	84	8	2	1	-	5	-	103
Cardiff	84	3	-	1	2	10	-	156
Carlisle <sup>1</sup>	91	-	3	3	-	-	-	32
Cleveland <sup>1</sup>	53	16	8	8	5	10	-	123
Derby	98	-	-	2	-	-	-	46
Dorset	82	8	1	1	4	3	-	74
Dundee	95	3	-	-	-	2	-	96
Edinburgh	33	25	16	16	1	7	1	69
Exeter	83	10	3	1	1	1	-	143
Gillingham	80	10	2	2	2	5	-	196
Glasgow (Westmarc)	60	18	6	7	3	7	-	228
Hull	71	9	5	5	3	8	-	80
Inverness	43	37	7	7	-	7	-	30
Isle of Wight <sup>2</sup>	67	13	7	-	-	-	13	15
Leeds	29	29	12	13	5	11	1	171
Leicester	94	3	-	2	-	-	-	90
Liverpool (Fazakerley)	83	5	5	4	3	-	-	119
London (Bowley Close)	40	26	9	10	3	12	-	77
London (Charing Cross)	63	13	3	5	3	15	-	40
London (Harold Wood)	44	25	5	8	7	11	-	227
London (Roehampton)	31	27	9	15	10	9	-	103
London (Stanmore)	54	18	3	6	5	15	-	107
Luton & Dunstable	65	14	10	6	3	1	-	77
Manchester	77	7	4	3	1	8	-	283
Newcastle	66	14	4	5	1	10	-	145
Northampton	67	21	-	5	2	6	-	66
Norwich	63	12	7	5	2	10	-	81
Nottingham	46	15	8	13	6	12	-	128
Oxford	53	7	4	8	5	23	-	118
Plymouth	93	4	-	-	1	2	-	99
Portsmouth	67	13	3	8	5	3	-	61
Preston	48	18	6	11	9	9	-	160
Sheffield	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	188
Stoke	93	5	-	-	1	-	-	92
Sussex	67	20	2	2	4	5	-	97
Swansea	85	7	2	1	1	4	-	99
Wirral	92	3	4	1	-	-	-	75
Wolverhampton <sup>1</sup>	91	6	-	1	1	2	-	121
Wrexham	60	24	4	-	4	9	-	55
<b>All centres: %</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>All centres: number</b>	<b>3364</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4837</b>

<sup>1</sup> 2005/06 data.

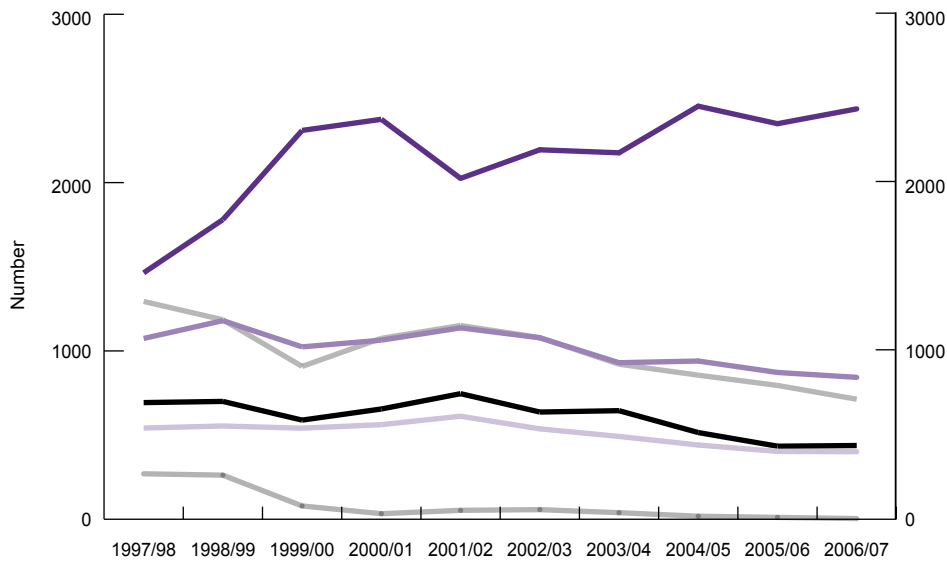
<sup>2</sup> 2000/01 data.

<sup>3</sup> Due to rounding row percentages may not add up to 100%.

Note: Excludes congenital absence cases with no surgical amputation.

# Referrals to UK Prosthetics Services

**Chart 4a** Time interval (weeks) between date of amputation and receipt of referral by year April 1997 to March 2007



<span style="color: #4b0082;">■</span> < 2 weeks	1464	1780	2310	2376	2025	2195	2177	2454	2350	2438
<span style="color: #800080;">■</span> 2-4 weeks	1074	1180	1024	1064	1137	1078	930	940	872	843
<span style="color: #c0c0c0;">■</span> 4-6 weeks	542	554	541	562	612	537	492	441	403	401
<span style="color: #000000;">■</span> 6-12 weeks	693	700	589	655	746	637	645	515	434	438
<span style="color: #808080;">■</span> 12 weeks +	1294	1185	908	1075	1151	1079	921	856	795	713
<span style="color: #a9a9a9;">■</span> Unknown	270	262	79	33	53	57	39	18	11	4

Chart 4a shows the time interval in weeks between the date of amputation and receipt of referral at the prosthetics service centre. This chart focuses on the first 12 weeks and highlights a gradual trend towards earlier referral. In 2006/07 half of all referrals were made within 2 weeks of amputation being carried out.

Chart 4b Time interval (>3 months) between date of amputation and receipt of referral : 2006/07

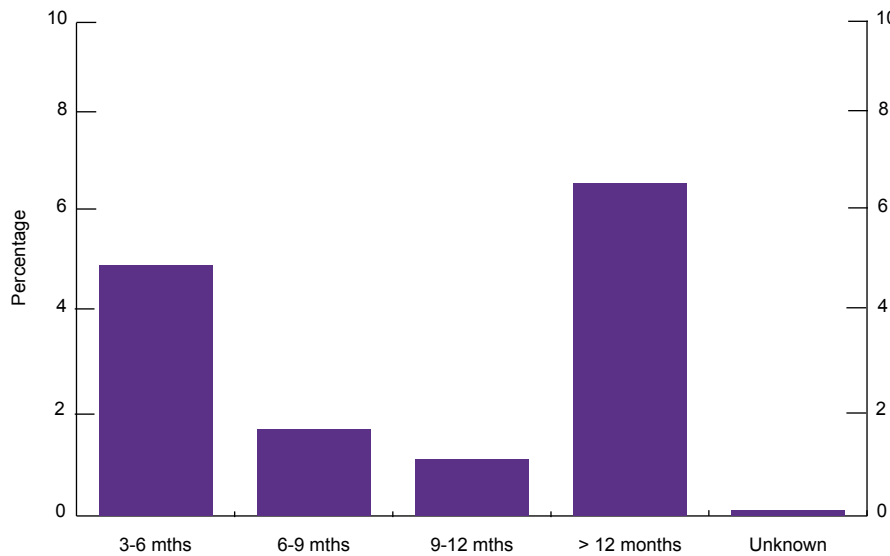
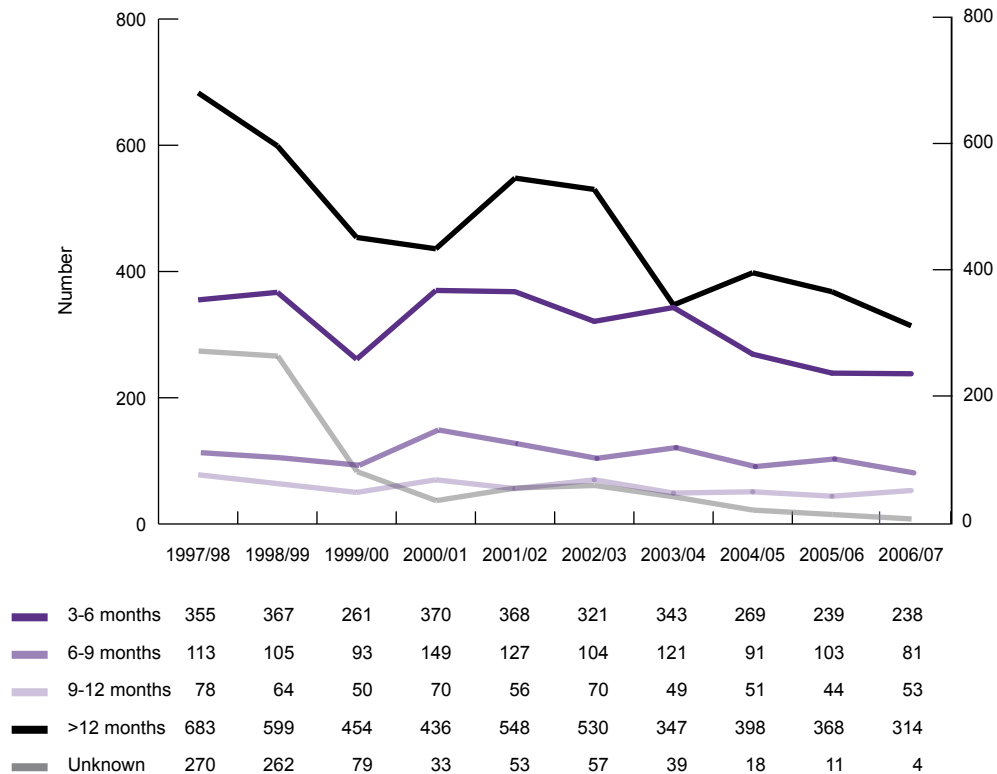


Chart 4b presents information on patients referred three months or more after their amputation. Fourteen per cent of referrals to prosthetics service centres are received 3 months or more after the date of amputation. Three hundred and fourteen patients (6%) are referred more than 12 months after their amputation was carried out.

Chart 4c Time interval (> 3 months) between date of amputation and receipt of referral by year April 1997 to March 2007



The number of amputees referred 12 months or more after amputation continues to fall. Time intervals for all other groups remain fairly constant.



UK Prosthetics Services  
**UPPER LIMB AMPUTATIONS**

# Upper Limb Amputations

## Level of amputation by centre

In this table the number of upper limb referrals to each centre is expressed as a percentage according to the level of amputation. It is important to note that for many centres the total number of upper limb amputee referrals is very small and comparisons between centres requires careful examination of the data. Forty per cent of upper limb amputee referrals are to 5 of the 38 centres providing an upper limb service. As in previous years Birmingham received the most new referrals (29). Nottingham had the next highest number (19).

Trans-humeral or trans-radial amputations accounted for 43 per cent of all upper limb referrals with partial hand and upper digit amputees accounting for 41 per cent.

**Table 5** Level of amputation as a percentage of total number; by prosthetics service centre : 2006/07

Prosthetics Service Centre <sup>2</sup>	Level of amputation <sup>1</sup>									Total no. of referrals
	Fore-quarter	Shoulder disarticulation	Trans-humeral	Elbow disarticulation	Trans-radial	Wrist disarticulation	Partial hand	Upper digits	Double upper amp.	
<i>Row percentages<sup>3</sup></i>										
Aberdeen	-	25	25	-	50	-	-	-	-	4
Belfast	-	13	13	13	25	-	13	25	-	8
Birmingham	-	3	21	-	7	3	3	59	3	29
Bristol	20	-	60	-	20	-	-	-	-	5
Cambridge	20	-	40	-	20	20	-	-	-	5
Cardiff	-	-	-	-	25	25	-	50	-	4
Carlisle <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleveland <sup>4</sup>	-	-	33	-	-	-	-	67	-	3
Dorset	-	-	-	33	-	33	33	-	-	3
Dundee	-	-	50	-	-	-	50	-	-	2
Edinburgh	-	-	25	-	50	-	-	25	-	4
Exeter	-	-	50	-	-	-	50	-	-	2
Gillingham	-	-	57	-	29	-	14	-	-	7
Glasgow (Westmarc)	-	14	43	-	43	-	-	-	-	7
Hull	-	-	-	-	25	-	75	-	-	4
Inverness	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	1
Leeds	-	-	18	-	27	-	-	36	18	11
Leicester	40	-	40	-	-	-	-	20	-	5
Liverpool (Fazakerley)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	1
London (Bowley Close)	29	-	14	-	-	-	14	43	-	7
London (Charing Cross)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
London (Harold Wood)	-	22	44	-	11	-	22	-	-	9
London (Roehampton)	-	-	13	-	25	25	-	38	-	8
London (Stanmore)	-	-	29	-	71	-	-	-	-	7
Manchester	6	-	35	-	6	-	24	24	6	17
Newcastle	-	25	-	-	25	-	-	50	-	4
Northampton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norwich	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	50	-	2
Nottingham	5	-	5	-	16	-	-	58	16	19
Oxford	-	13	-	13	38	-	25	-	13	8
Plymouth	-	-	67	-	-	-	-	33	-	3
Portsmouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	2
Preston	-	-	25	-	8	-	67	-	-	12
Sheffield	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sussex	-	-	80	-	-	-	20	-	-	5
Swansea	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	50	-	2
Wirral	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	3
Wrexham	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	1
<b>All centres: %</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>All centres: number</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>215</b>

1 Excludes congenital absence cases.

2 Derby, Isle of White, Luton and Dunstable, Stoke and Wolverhampton do not provide an upper limb service.

3 Due to rounding row percentages may not add up to 100%.

4 2005/06 data.

## Level of amputation by gender and age

As with lower limb referrals the majority of upper limb referrals are male (67%). However, unlike lower limb referrals, upper limb referrals tend to be in the younger age groups reflecting the aetiology of the condition (mainly trauma). Three in every 5 upper limb referrals were aged between 16 – 54 years. Half of all female referrals were aged 16 – 54 and 71 per cent of all males. The percentage of female referrals under 16 is higher (14%) than the percentage of male referrals (4%) in this age group.

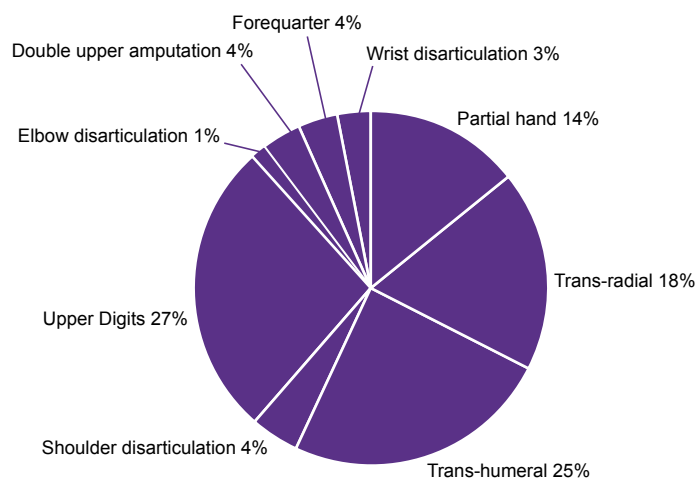
**Table 6 Level of amputation; by gender and age : 2006/07**

**UPPER LIMB**

Level of amputation <sup>1</sup>	Males						Females						Total
	less than 16	16-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	All ages	less than 16	16-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	All ages	
	Forequarter	-	5	1	-	1	7	-	-	-	1	-	
Shoulder disarticulation	-	4	-	-	1	5	-	2	1	1	-	4	9
Trans-humeral	1	26	5	2	5	39	2	4	1	3	4	14	53
Elbow disarticulation	-	2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Trans-radial	2	22	4	-	1	29	1	4	2	2	1	10	39
Wrist disarticulation	1	4	-	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	1	6
Partial hand	-	14	1	3	-	18	3	6	3	-	1	13	31
Upper Digits	1	23	10	1	-	35	2	17	2	1	1	23	58
Double upper amputation	1	3	-	-	-	4	2	1	-	-	1	4	8
<b>All upper limb amputations<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>6</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>215</b>

<sup>1</sup> Excludes congenital absence cases.

**Chart 6 Level of amputation : 2006/07**



# Upper Limb Amputations

## Cause and level

A cause of upper limb loss was recorded in 91 per cent (195) of the total referrals following upper limb amputation.

Trauma accounted for 58 per cent of all upper limb referrals, with mechanical trauma being the most common type. Of all trauma referrals amputation of the upper digits is the most common level at 31 per cent.

Dysvascularity accounted for 12 per cent of all upper limb referrals and neoplasia 11 per cent.

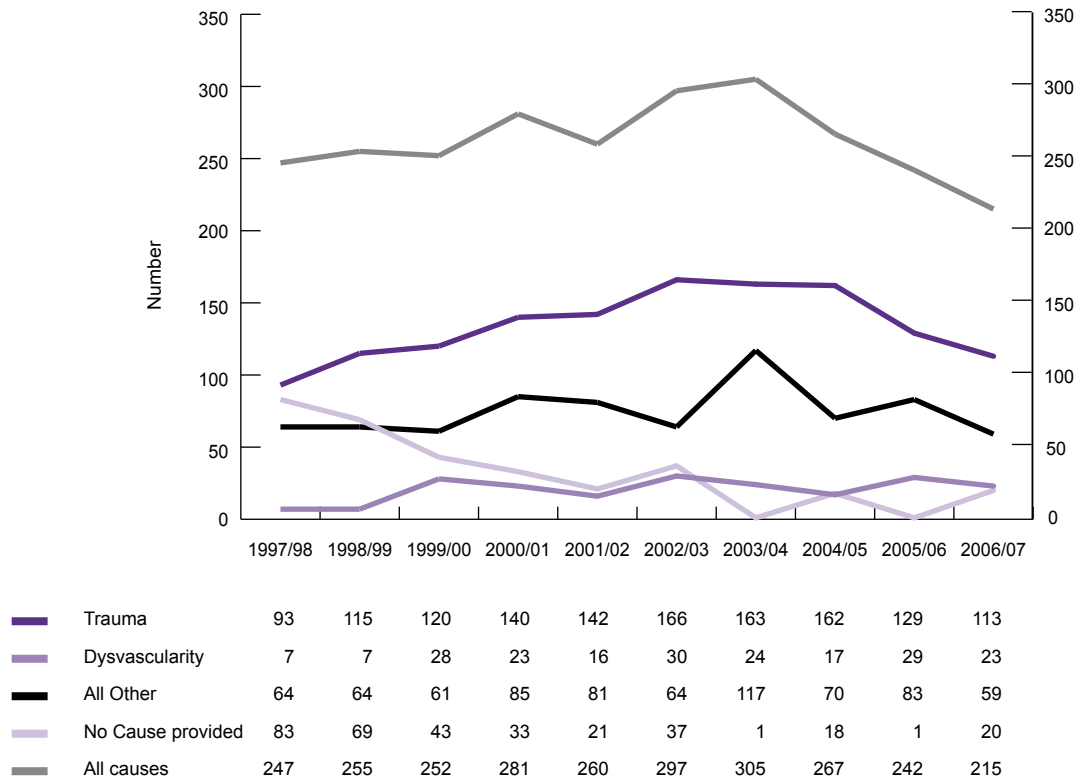
Table 7 Level of amputation; by cause of amputation : 2006/07

## UPPER LIMB

Cause of amputation	Level of amputation <sup>1</sup>									Total
	Fore-quarter	Shoulder disarticulation	Trans-humeral	Elbow disarticulation	Trans-radial	Wrist disarticulation	Partial hand	Upper digits	Double upper amp.	
<b>Trauma</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>113</b>
No Additional Detail	-	-	6	-	2	-	3	9	-	20
Mechanical	1	3	17	2	13	4	12	25	2	79
Electrical	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	4
Thermal	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	4
Chemical	-	-	2	-	2	1	-	-	1	6
<b>Dysvascularity</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23</b>
No Additional Detail	-	1	3	-	1	-	1	-	-	6
Diabetes Mellitus	-	-	5	-	5	-	-	1	-	11
Non-diabetic Arteriosclerosis	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Embolism	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Vasospastic Conditions (inc. Raynauds)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Endovascular Chemical Trauma (Substance Abuse)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buerger's Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ischaemic Vasculopathy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arteritis (inc. Rheumatoid Arthritis, Autoimmune Disease)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Venous Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Infection</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>
No Additional Detail	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Acute	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	3	6
Chronic	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	4
<b>Neurological Disorder</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>
No Additional Detail	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Diabetic Neuropathy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective (inc. Leprosy, Madura Foot)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spina Bifida	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peripheral Nerve Injury	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<b>Neoplasia</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22</b>
No Additional Detail	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Benign	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
Malignant - Primary	4	2	6	-	4	-	1	1	-	18
Malignant - Secondary	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<b>Other - No Additional Detail</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>No Cause Provided</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>All causes</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>215</b>

<sup>1</sup> Excludes congenital absence cases.

Chart 7 Number of upper limb amputations by cause and year April 1997 to March 2007



The number of new referrals for upper limb amputations has fallen again in 2006/07 to the lowest since data collection began in 1997/98.

# Upper Limb Amputations

## Cause and age

Referrals following upper limb loss are most common in the 16 – 54 age group and account for 64 per cent of all upper limb referrals in 2006/07. Trauma is the most common cause of upper limb referrals and almost three quarters of all trauma referrals are aged between 16 – 54. This group of referrals accounts for 43 per cent of all upper limb referrals. The 16 – 54 age group is the most common age group for all conditions following upper limb amputation.

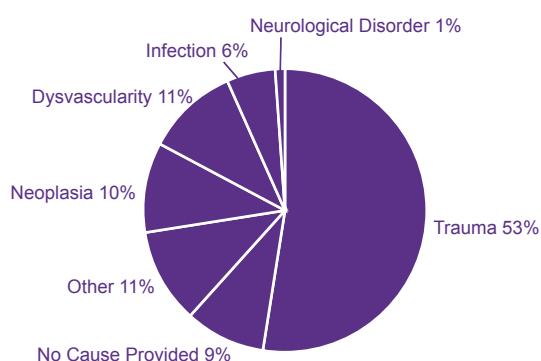
Table 8 Cause of amputation; by age : 2006/07

## UPPER LIMB

Cause of amputation <sup>1</sup>	Age Group					Total
	less than 16	16-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	
<b>Trauma</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>113</b>
No Additional Detail	2	13	3	2	-	20
Mechanical	3	63	7	4	2	79
Electrical	-	2	1	1	-	4
Thermal	1	3	-	-	-	4
Chemical	2	3	1	-	-	6
<b>Dysvascularity</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>23</b>
No Additional Detail	-	4	-	1	1	6
Diabetes Mellitus	-	8	3	-	-	11
Non-diabetic Arteriosclerosis	-	2	-	-	-	2
Embolism	-	-	1	-	-	1
Vasospastic Conditions (inc. Raynauds)	-	-	2	-	-	2
Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation	-	1	-	-	-	1
Endovascular Chemical Trauma (Substance Abuse)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buerger's Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Infection</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>
No Additional Detail	-	1	1	-	-	2
Acute	2	2	-	-	2	6
Chronic	1	2	-	1	-	4
<b>Neurological Disorder</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>
No Additional Detail	1	-	-	-	-	1
Neurological Disorder - Infective (inc. Leprosy, Madura Foot)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neurological Disorder - Peripheral Nerve Injury	-	-	1	-	-	1
<b>Neoplasia</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>22</b>
No Additional Detail	-	-	-	-	1	1
Benign	-	1	-	-	1	2
Malignant - Primary	1	10	1	1	5	18
Malignant - Secondary	-	-	-	1	-	1
<b>Other</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>No Cause Provided</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>215</b>

1 Excludes congenital absence.

Chart 8 Cause of amputation : 2006/07 including 'No cause provided'



UK Prosthetics Services  
**LOWER LIMB AMPUTATIONS**

# Lower Limb Amputations

## Level of amputation by centre

The number of referrals to each centre is expressed as a percentage according to the level of lower limb amputation. Nine out of 10 referrals following lower limb amputations are either trans-tibial (53%) or trans-femoral (39%), this is similar to the previous year. There is substantial local variation in the percentage of patients referred following trans-tibial and trans-femoral amputations, for example:

Luton and Dunstable (76 new referrals) : trans-tibial 45%, trans-femoral 47%

Norwich (78 new referrals) : trans-tibial 60%, trans-femoral 33%

Wirral (72 new referrals) : trans-tibial 35%, trans-femoral 61%

**Table 9** Level of amputation as a percentage of total number; by prosthetics service centre : 2006/07

## LOWER LIMB

Prosthetics Service Centre	Level of amputation <sup>1</sup>									Total number of referrals
	Hemi-pelv-ectomy	Hip disarticulation	Trans-femoral	Knee disarticulation	Trans-tibial	Ankle disarticulation	Partial foot	Lower digits	Double lower amputation	
	Percentages <sup>2</sup>									
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Aberdeen	-	2	46	-	44	-	-	2	6	63
Belfast	-	1	43	1	47	-	1	2	6	107
Birmingham	-	-	41	3	50	-	-	4	2	241
Bristol	1	-	40	1	54	1	1	-	2	104
Cambridge	-	3	40	1	47	-	1	-	7	97
Cardiff	-	1	36	-	56	-	3	-	5	152
Carlisle <sup>3</sup>	-	-	32	3	58	-	-	-	6	31
Cleveland <sup>3</sup>	-	-	48	-	48	-	3	1	1	120
Derby	-	-	35	2	61	-	-	-	2	46
Dorset	-	-	49	1	44	-	1	-	4	71
Dundee	-	-	48	1	47	-	-	-	4	90
Edinburgh	-	-	20	-	71	3	-	-	6	65
Exeter	1	-	38	1	51	-	1	-	8	141
Gillingham	-	-	43	2	51	-	2	1	1	187
Glasgow (Westmarc)	-	-	29	-	65	0	0	-	5	216
Hull	-	-	39	-	58	-	1	-	1	76
Inverness	-	-	7	-	90	-	-	-	3	29
Isle of Wight <sup>4</sup>	-	-	40	-	60	-	-	-	-	15
Leeds	1	1	41	1	50	1	-	-	5	157
Leicester	-	5	33	-	55	-	1	-	6	85
Liverpool (Fazakerley)	1	-	48	1	46	1	-	-	3	118
London (Bowley Close)	-	3	37	3	44	-	3	-	10	70
London (Charing Cross)	-	-	18	8	68	-	-	-	8	40
London (Harold Wood)	-	1	32	-	61	-	2	-	3	215
London (Roehampton)	1	-	33	-	61	-	1	1	1	93
London (Stanmore)	4	-	40	3	42	-	3	-	7	97
Luton & Dunstable	-	1	47	1	45	-	3	-	3	76
Manchester	-	0	35	2	55	1	1	-	5	262
Newcastle	1	-	38	1	50	-	1	-	9	137
Northampton	-	-	33	2	62	-	-	-	3	66
Norwich	-	1	33	-	60	-	-	1	4	78
Nottingham	-	1	40	2	51	1	1	-	4	109
Oxford	-	-	37	-	55	1	2	-	6	108
Plymouth	-	-	35	1	60	-	-	-	4	95
Portsmouth	2	2	31	2	59	2	-	-	3	59
Preston	-	1	39	1	49	1	4	-	6	146
Sheffield	-	1	43	1	50	-	1	-	4	184
Stoke	-	-	43	-	53	-	-	-	3	92
Sussex	1	1	38	8	48	1	2	-	1	92
Swansea	1	-	38	-	58	-	-	-	3	97
Wirral	-	1	61	-	35	-	1	-	1	72
Wolverhampton <sup>3</sup>	-	-	55	4	35	-	1	-	5	121
Wrexham	-	-	48	-	50	-	-	-	2	54
All centres: %	0	1	39	1	53	0	1	0	4	
All centres: total no.	14	26	1788	57	2411	14	51	17	196	4574

1 Excludes congenital absence cases.

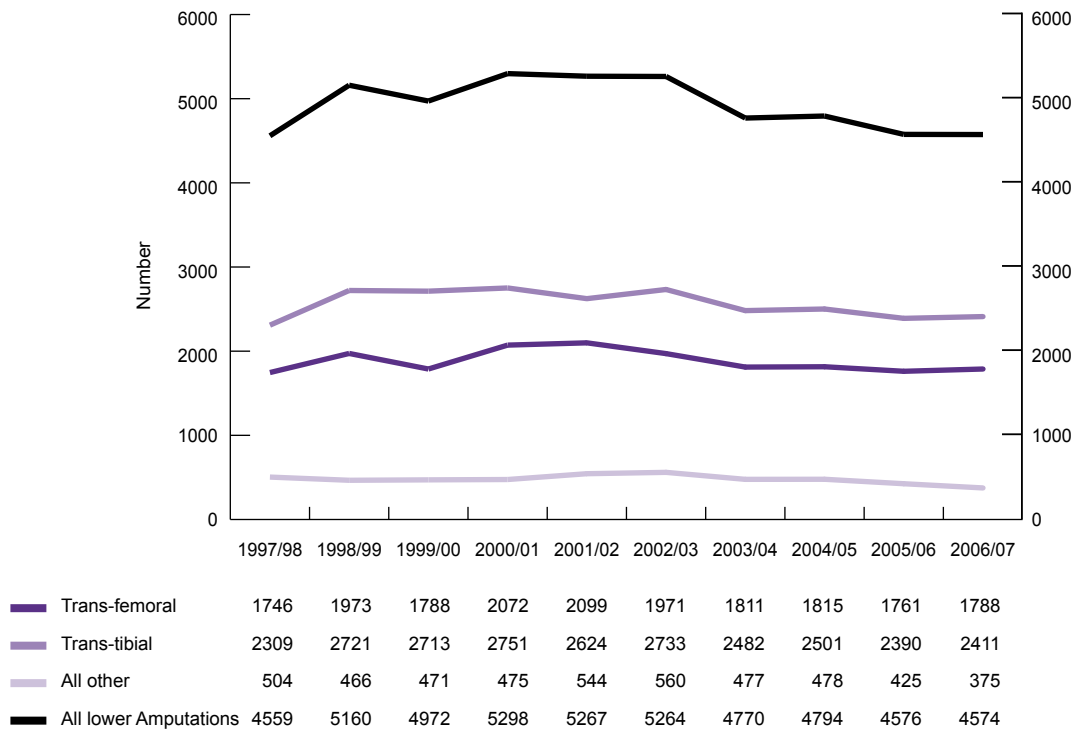
2 Due to rounding low percentages may not add up to 100%.

3 2005/06 data.

4 2000/01 data.

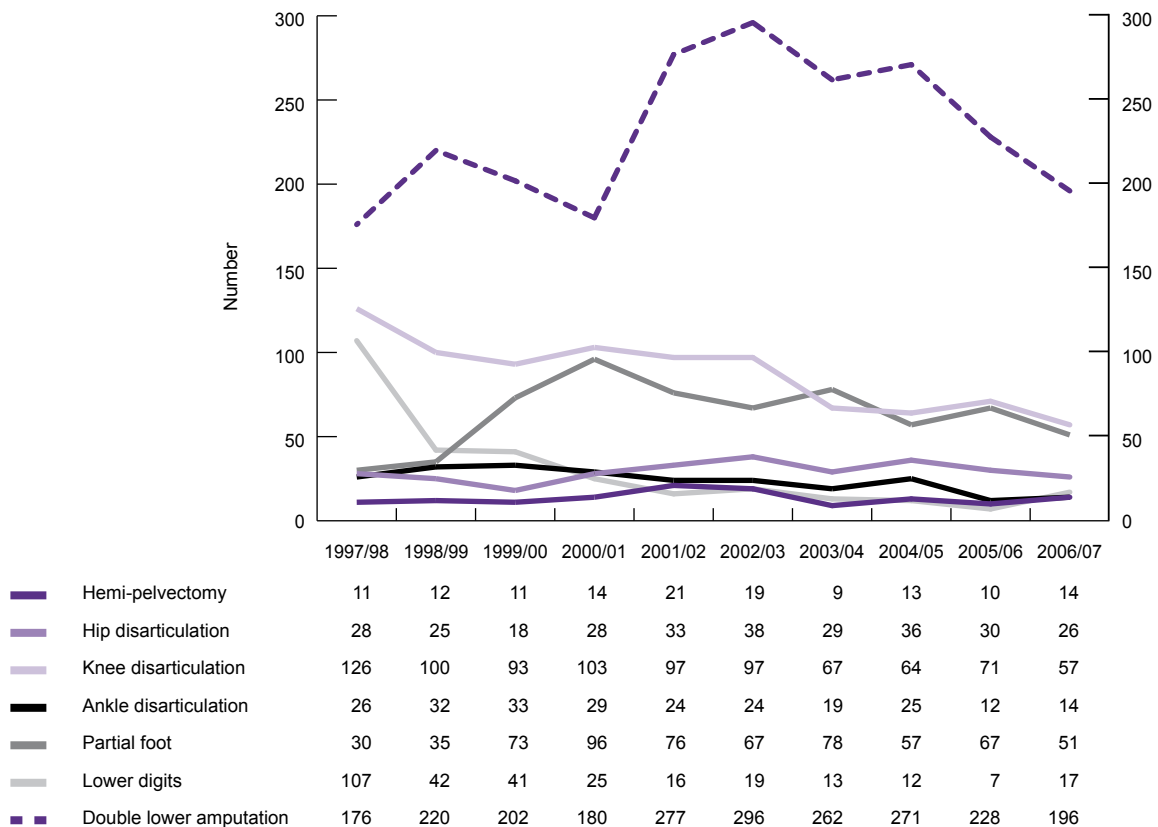
0 indicates less than 1%

Chart 9a Number of lower limb amputations by level and year April 1997 to March 2007



The number of referrals following lower limb amputations is very similar to the previous year.

Chart 9b Number of lower limb amputations by level and year (excluding trans-femoral and trans-tibial) April 1997 to March 2007



# Lower Limb Amputations

## Level of amputation by gender and age

More than two thirds of lower limb amputees referred in 2006/07 were male (72%). Just over half of all male referrals were at the trans-tibial level (54%) with a slightly lower proportion in females (49%): the great majority of the remaining amputations were at the trans-femoral level (38% in males and 43% in females).

Females tend to be referred at an older age than males. The most common age group for male lower limb referrals is 65 – 74, which account for 28 per cent of all male referrals. In females the most common age group is over 75, with 40 per cent of all female lower limb referrals being in this age group.

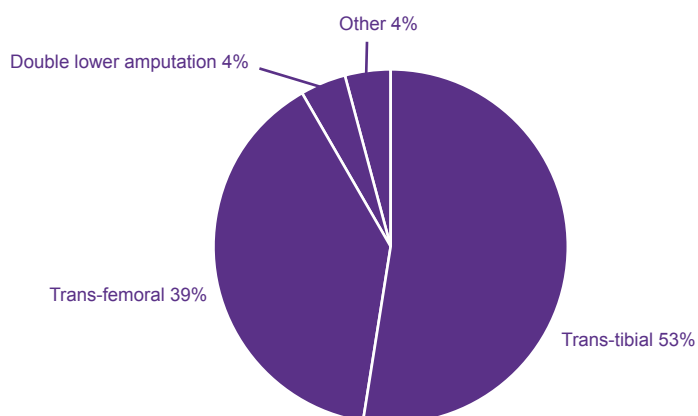
Table **10** Level of amputation; by gender and age : 2006/07

### LOWER LIMB

Level of amputation <sup>1</sup>	Males						Females						Not Specified	Total
	less than 16	16-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	All ages	less than 16	16-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	All ages		
Hemi-pelvectomy	1	2	5	1	-	9	-	3	1	1	-	5	-	14
Hip disarticulation	-	7	4	2	-	13	-	6	1	3	3	13	-	26
Trans-femoral	12	205	277	373	365	1 232	3	72	77	136	266	554	2	1 788
Knee disarticulation	1	12	5	13	8	39	3	2	1	1	10	17	1	57
Trans-tibial	10	447	402	486	421	1 766	10	150	107	147	229	643	2	2 411
Ankle disarticulation	2	4	1	1	1	9	-	4	1	-	-	5	-	14
Partial foot	1	15	5	6	9	36	1	6	2	3	2	14	1	51
Lower digits	-	5	3	1	4	13	1	1	1	1	-	4	-	17
Double lower amputation	2	41	37	42	30	152	6	11	5	11	11	44	-	196
<b>All lower limb amputations<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>29</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>3 269</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>1 299</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4 574</b>

1 Excludes cases of congenital absence.

Chart **10** Level of amputation : 2006/07



## Cause and level

Three quarters of all referrals following a lower limb amputation are caused by dysvascularity. Within each cause of amputation (apart from neoplasia and other) the most common level of amputation is trans-tibial. Patients whose amputation was as a result of neoplasia are more likely to have had a trans-femoral amputation.

A cause of lower limb loss was recorded in 96 per cent of all referrals following lower limb amputation. The aim is to collect the cause of amputation at a more detailed level. However a quarter of records were submitted with "no additional detail" codes or "other". For example 1 in 5 of the referrals because of dysvascularity did not specify the type of dysvascularity.

Table **11** Level of amputation; by cause of amputation : 2006/07

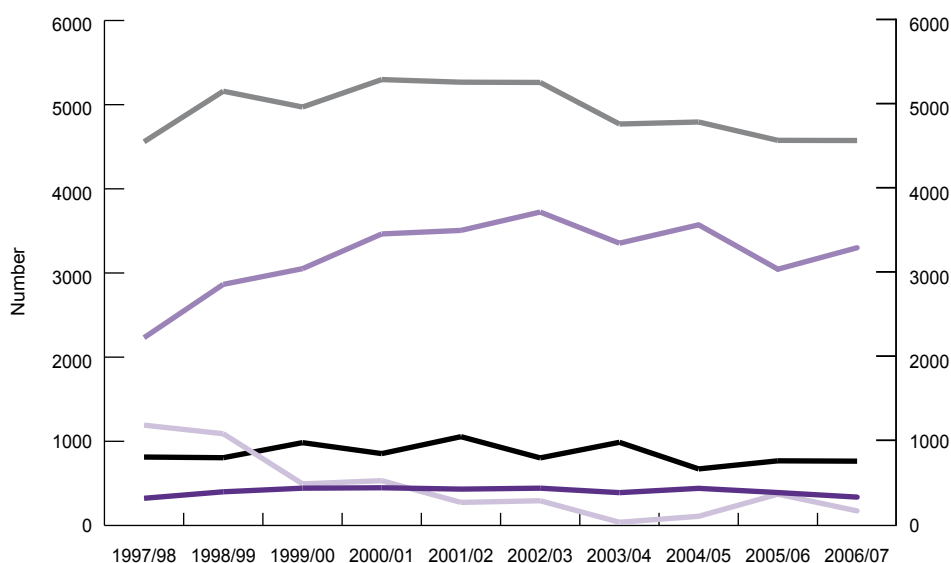
## LOWER LIMB

Cause of amputation	Level of amputation <sup>1</sup>									Total
	Hemi pelvec-tomy	Hip disartic-ulation	Trans-femoral	Knee disartic-ulation	Trans-tibial	Ankle disartic-ulation	Partial foot	Lower Digits	Double lower amp.	
<b>Trauma</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>337</b>
No Additional Detail	-	1	34	2	38	-	7	2	6	90
Mechanical	1	-	54	4	138	1	9	1	17	225
Electrical	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Thermal	-	-	2	-	4	-	1	1	2	10
Chemical	-	-	6	-	4	-	-	-	1	11
<b>Dysvascularity</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1,793</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>3 300</b>
No Additional Detail	-	2	334	9	270	-	6	1	25	647
Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	363	9	993	5	12	2	60	1 445
Non-diabetic										
Arteriosclerosis	1	2	520	10	450	-	-	-	46	1 029
Embolism	-	-	39	1	30	-	1	-	3	74
Vasospastic Conditions (inc. Raynaud's)	-	-	2	-	8	-	1	-	1	12
Disseminated										
Intravascular Coagulation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Endovascular Chemical Trauma (Substance Abuse)	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
Buerger's Disease	-	-	2	-	7	-	-	-	-	9
Iatrogenic Vascular Trauma	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
Arteritis (inc. Rheumatoid Arthritis, Autoimmune Disease)	-	-	15	1	15	1	2	-	1	35
Venous Disease	-	-	20	-	18	-	-	-	2	40
<b>Infection</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>356</b>
No Additional Detail	-	2	40	4	46	1	1	-	1	95
Acute	-	2	37	1	29	-	2	-	11	82
Chronic	1	4	66	4	99	1	1	1	2	179
<b>Neurological Disorder</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>56</b>
No Additional Detail	-	-	3	1	7	1	-	-	1	13
Diabetic Neuropathy	-	-	2	-	18	-	-	-	-	20
Infective	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	5
Spina Bifida	-	-	1	-	7	2	-	-	1	11
Poliomyelitis	-	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	5
Peripheral Nerve Injury	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
<b>Neoplasia</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>120</b>
No Additional Detail	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	6
Benign	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	5
Malignant - Primary	10	8	44	1	37	-	-	-	-	100
Malignant - Secondary	1	-	6	-	1	-	-	-	1	9
<b>Other</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>232</b>
No Cause Provided	0	0	78	4	81	0	0	8	2	173
<b>All causes</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1 788</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>2 411</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>4 574</b>

1 Excludes congenital absence.

# Lower Limb Amputations

Chart 11 Number of lower limb amputations by cause and year April 1997 to March 2007



	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Trauma	323	400	443	448	432	443	390	441	391	337
Dysvascularity	2231	2865	3051	3464	3506	3724	3354	3572	3045	3300
No Cause provided	1192	1090	494	532	274	294	38	109	372	173
All Other	813	805	984	854	1055	803	988	672	768	764
All causes	4559	5160	4972	5298	5267	5264	4770	4794	4576	4574

Over the data collection period there has been an increase in referrals following lower limb amputation arising from dysvascularity. However this may be due to better recording of the cause of amputation because the number of referrals where no cause is provided has decreased by a similar amount.

## Cause and age

Dysvascularity is the most common cause of lower limb amputation amongst all age groups. The most common age group for dysvascularity referrals is 75 years and over. For all other aetiologies the most commonly referred age group is 16 – 54 years.

There is a strong association between age and cause of amputation. Fifteen per cent of referrals following amputation due to dysvascularity were aged under 55 years compared with 32 per cent aged over 75 years. Trauma, on the other hand, mainly occurred in the younger age groups with 73 per cent of lower limb referrals aged less than 55 and only 8 per cent aged over 75.

It is surprising that causes of dysvascularity are reported in the under 16 age group.

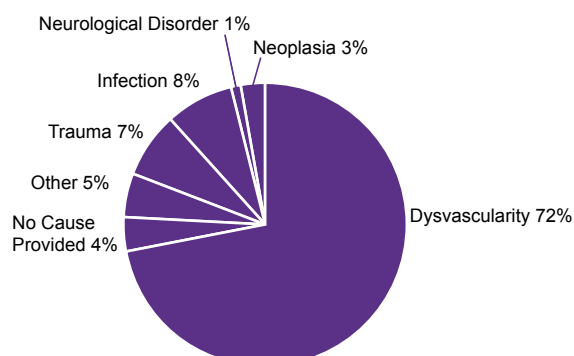
Table 12 Cause of amputation; by age : 2006/07

## LOWER LIMB

Cause of amputation <sup>1</sup>	Age Group					Not specified	Total
	less than 16	16-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over		
<b>Trauma</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>337</b>
No Additional Detail	2	58	8	7	14	1	90
Mechanical	7	162	29	13	14	-	225
Electrical	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Thermal	-	6	3	1	-	-	10
Chemical	-	10	-	1	-	-	11
<b>Dysvascularity</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>1,071</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3 300</b>
No Additional Detail	4	68	144	180	251	-	647
Diabetes Mellitus	1	250	350	485	359	-	1 445
Non-diabetic Arteriosclerosis	3	109	194	319	404	-	1 029
Embolism	2	15	13	12	32	-	74
Vasospastic Conditions	-	4	5	3	-	-	12
Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Endovascular Chemical Trauma	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
Buerger's Disease	-	8	-	-	1	-	9
Iatrogenic Vascular Trauma	-	2	1	-	-	-	3
Arteritis	1	8	10	10	6	-	35
Venous Disease	-	9	4	9	18	-	40
<b>Infection</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>356</b>
No Additional Detail	-	24	19	26	26	-	95
Acute	7	21	11	22	21	-	82
Chronic	1	66	39	31	42	-	179
<b>Neurological Disorder</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>56</b>
No Additional Detail	3	7	2	-	1	-	13
Diabetic Neuropathy	-	7	4	4	5	-	20
Infective	-	3	-	-	2	-	5
Spina Bifida	-	10	-	1	-	-	11
Poliomyelitis	-	2	2	1	-	-	5
Peripheral Nerve Injury	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
<b>Neoplasia</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>120</b>
No Additional Detail	1	2	-	1	2	-	6
Benign	1	2	-	-	2	-	5
Malignant - Primary	8	39	16	22	15	-	100
Malignant - Secondary	-	4	-	4	1	-	9
<b>Other</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>232</b>
No Cause Provided	3	29	33	33	75	-	173
<b>All causes</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>1 228</b>	<b>1 362</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4 574</b>

1 Excludes congenital absence cases

Chart 12 Cause of amputation : 2006/07





UK Prosthetics Services  
**MISCELLANEOUS**

## Miscellaneous

### Multiple amputations

The number of multiple amputations is small but this subgroup is important to identify since the care costs for each case can be substantial.

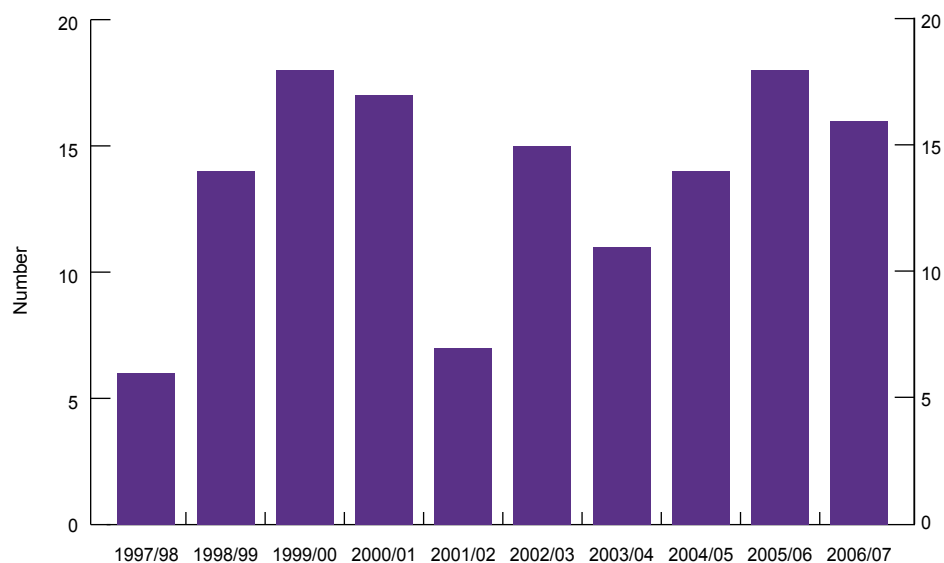
Table **13** Multiple amputation by cause of amputation, gender and age : 2006/07

Cause of amputation <sup>1</sup>	Males					Females					Total 2006/07		
					Total					Total			
	less than 16	16-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	less than 16	16-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over			
<b>Cross site amputation<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	-	-	<b>5</b>	-	<b>3</b>	-	-	-	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>
Trauma - Mechanical	1	1	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Dysvascularity - Diabetes Mellitus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	2
Dysvascularity - Non-diabetic Arteriosclerosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Dysvascularity - Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Infection - Acute	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<b>Triple amputation</b>	-	<b>1</b>	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	-	-	-	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
Trauma - Electrical	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysvascularity - Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Infection - Acute	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
<b>Quadruple amputation</b>	<b>3</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	-	-	-	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
Dysvascularity - Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation	2	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	3
Infection - Acute	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	-	-	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	-	-	-	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>

1 Excludes congenital absence cases.

2 Bilateral upper limb and bilateral lower limb amputations appear in previous tables.

Chart **13** Number of multiple amputations by year April 1997 to March 2007



Multiple amputations 6 14 18 17 7 15 11 14 18 16

## Congenital absence

More males (55%) than females (44%) were referred in 2006/07 with a congenital absence.

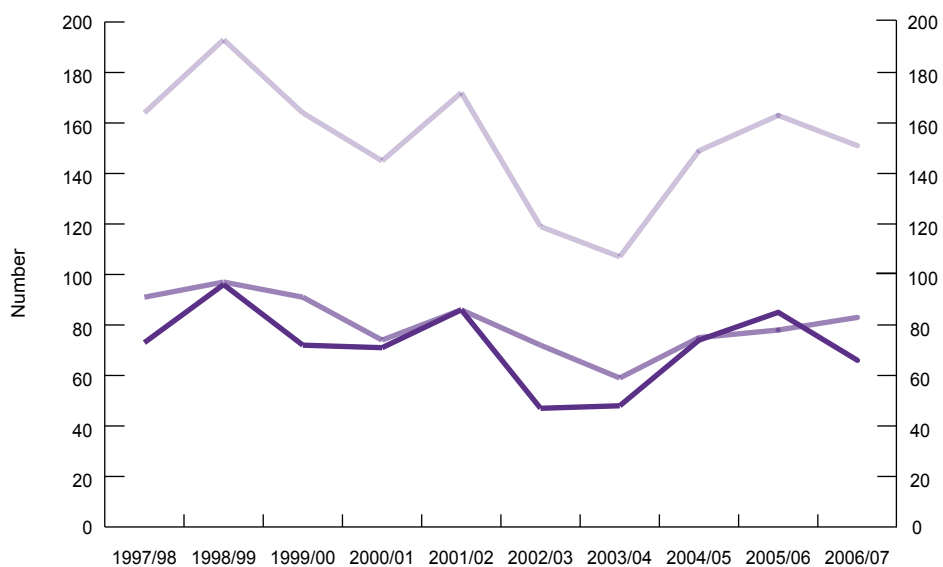
There are more referrals due to upper limb congenital absence (61%) than lower limb (39%). Twenty per cent of congenital abnormalities involved a surgical amputation with the majority affecting the lower limbs.

Almost 3 in every 5 referrals with a congenital absence were aged less than 16 years of age. Sixty-eight per cent of referrals with an upper limb congenital absence were aged under 16, compared with 41 per cent of referrals with a lower limb congenital absence.

Table **14** Congenital absence; by gender and age : 2006/07

Prosthetics Service Centre	Male						Female						Not specified	Total
	less than 16		16-54		55-64 65-74		less than 16		16-54		55-64 65-74			
	16	16-54	55-64	65-74	over 75 and ages	All	16	16-54	55-64	65-74	over 75 and ages	All		
Upper Congenital - Surgical Amputation	2	1	1	-	1	5	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	6
Upper Congenital - No Amputation	36	9	-	-	2	47	24	11	-	-	4	39	-	86
<b>Total Upper Congenital Absence</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>92</b>
Lower Congenital - Surgical Amputation	3	9	1	-	1	14	1	9	1	-	-	11	-	25
Lower Congenital - No Amputation	9	4	2	-	2	17	11	4	-	-	-	15	2	34
<b>Total Lower Congenital Absence</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>All Congenital Absence</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>151</b>

Chart 14 Number of congenital absences by gender and year April 1997 to March 2007



Male congenital	91	97	91	74	86	72	59	75	78	83
Female congenital	73	96	72	71	86	47	48	74	85	66
Total congenital absence	164	193	164	145	172	119	107	149	163	151

The number of referrals due to congenital absences fell this year following a rise in 2005/06.

# APPENDICES

## Appendix 1 List of Prosthetics Service Centres Submitting Data

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Location	Centre Name
Aberdeen	Grampian Primary Care NHS Trust
Belfast	Belfast Disablement Services Centre
Birmingham	West Midlands Regional Rehabilitation Centre
Bristol	Disablement Services Centre
Cambridge	Addenbrookes Disablement Services Centre
Cardiff	Rookwood Artificial Limb and Appliance Centre
Carlisle	Carlisle Disablement Services Centre
Cleveland	Cleveland Disablement Services Centre
Derby	Derby Amputee Rehabilitation Centre
Dorset	Dorset Prosthetics Centre
Dundee	Dundee Limb Fitting Centre
Edinburgh	Rehabilitation Engineering Services
Exeter	Exeter Mobility Centre
Gillingham	Gillingham Disablement Services Centre
Glasgow <sup>(Westmarc)</sup>	Westmarc
Hull	Hull & East Yorkshire Artificial Limb Unit
Inverness	Orthotics and Limb Fitting Services
Isle of Wight	The Prosthetics, Orthotics and Podiatry Department
Leeds	Specialist Rehabilitation Services
Leicester	Leicestershire Disablement Services Centre
Liverpool <sup>(Fazakerley)</sup>	Prosthetic and Wheelchair Centre at University Hospital Aintree
London <sup>(Bowley Close)</sup>	Bowley Close Rehabilitation Centre
London <sup>(Charing Cross)</sup>	Holderness Limb Fitting Centre
London <sup>(Harold Wood)</sup>	Harold Wood Disablement Services Centre
London <sup>(Roehampton)</sup>	Roehampton Rehabilitation Centre
London <sup>(Stanmore)</sup>	Stanmore Disablement Services Centre
Luton & Dunstable	Luton & Dunstable Limb Fitting Centre
Manchester	Manchester Disablement Services Centre
Newcastle	Newcastle Disablement Services Centre
Northampton	Northampton Artificial Limb Service
Norwich	Norwich Disablement Services Centre
Nottingham	Nottingham Mobility Centre
Oxford	Oxford Centre for Enablement
Plymouth	Plymouth Disablement Services Centre
Portsmouth	Portsmouth Disablement Services Centre
Preston	Preston Disablement Services Centre
Sheffield	Sheffield Mobility and Specialised Rehabilitation Centre
Stoke	North Midlands Amputee Rehabilitation Centre
Sussex	Sussex Rehabilitation Centre
Swansea	Swansea Artificial Limb and Appliance Service
Wirral	Wirral Limb Centre
Wolverhampton	Maltings Mobility Centre
Wrexham	North Wales Artificial Limb and Appliance Centre