



Victims of negligence

Results of YouGov opinion polling commissioned by APIL

05 May 2023

Number of victims of negligence

UK adults were asked if they had ever become ill or been injured because of someone else's negligence. Before answering, respondents were provided with a description of negligence.

This is the first piece of research to establish the number of people who have suffered negligence in the UK.

Victims of negligence within the past year

- Within the past year 3% of UK adults have become ill or been injured because of someone else's negligence.
- As a result, within the past year an estimated 1.6 million (1,585,008) UK adults have become victims of negligence.
- This means that an average of 30,000 UK adults became victims of negligence each week.

All victims of negligence

The following results look at those who have ever been a victim of negligence, i.e., those who have become ill or been injured either within the past year or further back in time.

- 21% of UK adults have become ill or been injured because of someone else's negligence.
- As a result, an estimated 11.2 million UK adults have, at some point, been a victim of negligence.

How were the estimates calculated?

Estimates covering the number of UK adults who are victims of negligence have been calculated by combining the results of YouGov's opinion polling with Office for National Statistics (ONS) data on the size of the UK population. The ONS data used to produce the estimates can be accessed at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland>

If a source needs to be cited for the estimate, the following text can be used:

- *APIL estimate based on YouGov opinion polling and Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimates.*
- *YouGov opinion poll: total sample size for the opinion poll was 2,086 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 27th - 28th April 2023. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all UK adults (aged 18+)*

Breakdown of results

People who got ill/injured because of negligence

Have you ever become ill or been injured because of someone else's negligence?

Percent

Yes – within the past year	3
Yes – not within the past year, but within the past 5 years	6
Yes – over 5 years ago	13
No, never	69
Don't know/ can't recall	8
Prefer not to say	2
Weighted N	2,086

Impact of negligence

The polling also looked at the impact which negligence has had on people's lives.

Of those UK adults who have ever become ill or been injured because of someone else's negligence:

- A quarter (25%) had to give up work for a period of time because of the negligence.
- Over a quarter (26%) say that their mental health deteriorated as a result of the negligence.
- More than one in five (21%) could no longer pursue their interests or hobbies because of the negligence.
- 15% say that their relationships with friends/ family were damaged because of the negligence.
- Just under one in ten (9%) had to give up work permanently because of the negligence.
- 13% had to reduce their hours at work because of the negligence.

Breakdown of results

You said that you were injured or became ill because of someone else's negligence... What impact has this negligence had on your life?
(Please select all that apply. If you have experienced negligence more than once, please think about every time this has happened)

Answer response	% of UK adults who have ever suffered negligence
Had to give up work permanently	9%
Had to give up work for a period of time	25%
Had to reduce my hours at work	13%
Could no longer pursue my interests/ hobbies (e.g., sport)	21%
My relationships with friends/ family were damaged	15%
My mental health deteriorated	26%
Other impact	38%
Prefer not to say	10%

Who is responsible?

Those who had suffered negligence were asked who was responsible for causing their injury or illness:

- 37% say that a driver of another vehicle was responsible.
- 28% say that their employer was responsible.
- 16% say that a healthcare professional was responsible.

Breakdown of results

Still thinking about all the times you have been injured or became ill because of someone else's negligence...Who, if any, do you believe was responsible for causing your injury or illness due to negligence? (Please select all that apply)

Answer response	% of UK adults who have ever suffered negligence
A driver of another vehicle	37%
My employer	28%
A healthcare professional	16%
Other	21%
Don't know	6%

Background

EDITOR'S NOTES – all press releases should contain the information in the box below:

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 2086 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 27th - 28th April 2023. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all UK adults (aged 18+).

NOTE: Reports or other materials based on results to this research bound for the public domain must be approved by YouGov prior to release if the client wishes to cite YouGov as the source of the findings. The Client must inform YouGov in writing of any survey information from this project that it, or its client, proposes to publish. YouGov will review for accuracy and respond with material corrections by email to the Client within 2 working days of receipt – YouGov will endeavour to complete this faster if this is needed by the Client. Should survey information be published without prior notice, YouGov may, at its discretion, release a corrected version without further consultation with the Client.

Full results can be accessed at [C:\Users\User\Association of Personal Injury Lawyers\Research - Documents\Injury Prevention Week 2023\Results for APIL \(Association of Personal Injury Lawyers\) \(Legal Negligence APIL\) 216 28.4.2023 v2.xlsx](C:\Users\User\Association of Personal Injury Lawyers\Research - Documents\Injury Prevention Week 2023\Results for APIL (Association of Personal Injury Lawyers) (Legal Negligence APIL) 216 28.4.2023 v2.xlsx)