

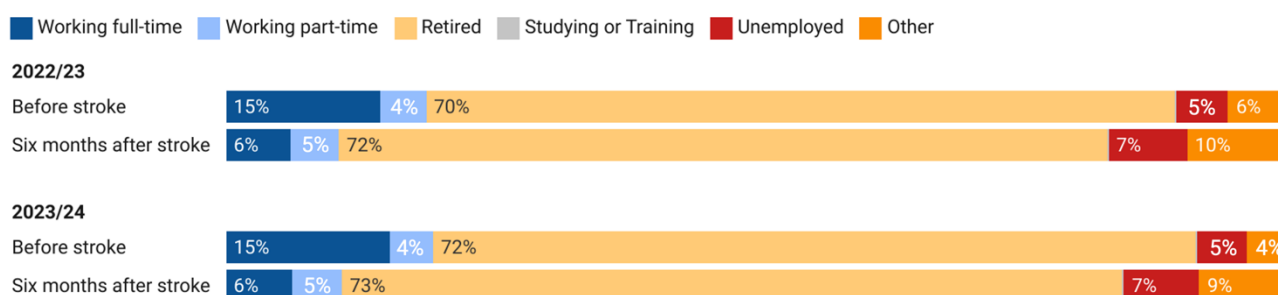
# SSNAP Spotlight Report: Outcomes after Stroke

## Introduction

SSNAP measures the quality and organisation of stroke care across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The overall aim of SSNAP is to provide timely information to clinicians, commissioners, patients, and the public on how well stroke care is being delivered. Processes of care are measured against evidence-based quality standards referring to the interventions that any patient may be expected to receive.

The SSNAP [State of the Nation Report 2024](#) focusses on the performance of stroke care nationally against 11 key performance metrics agreed by NHS England and the Welsh Government, and chosen to reflect performance across the stroke care pathway. To complement this report and these metrics, this spotlight report has been produced to highlight the growing data SSNAP collects on **outcomes after stroke**.

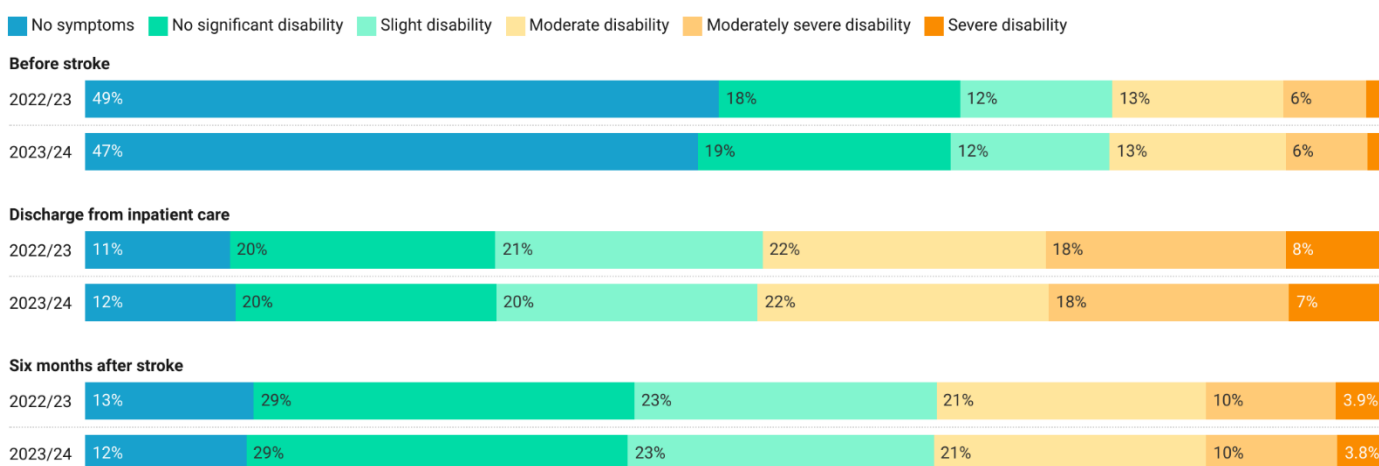
## Employment status before and at 6 months after stroke (2022-2024)



**Figure 1:** Comparison of employment status of stroke patients before stroke and at 6 months after stroke, between April 2022-March 2023 and April 2023-March 2024. This only includes those patients that had a 6 month review (39% of applicable patients in 2023/24).

6.2% of patients have been supported to continue working full-time and 4.7% part-time at 6 months after stroke compared to 15.4% working full-time and 4.1% part-time before stroke in 2023/24 (fig. 1). Vocational rehabilitation is a key component of an integrated community stroke service and NHS England have developed a [vocational rehabilitation toolkit](#) to support clinicians, commissioners and leaders to maximise the chances of people returning to work after a stroke through a personalised approach.

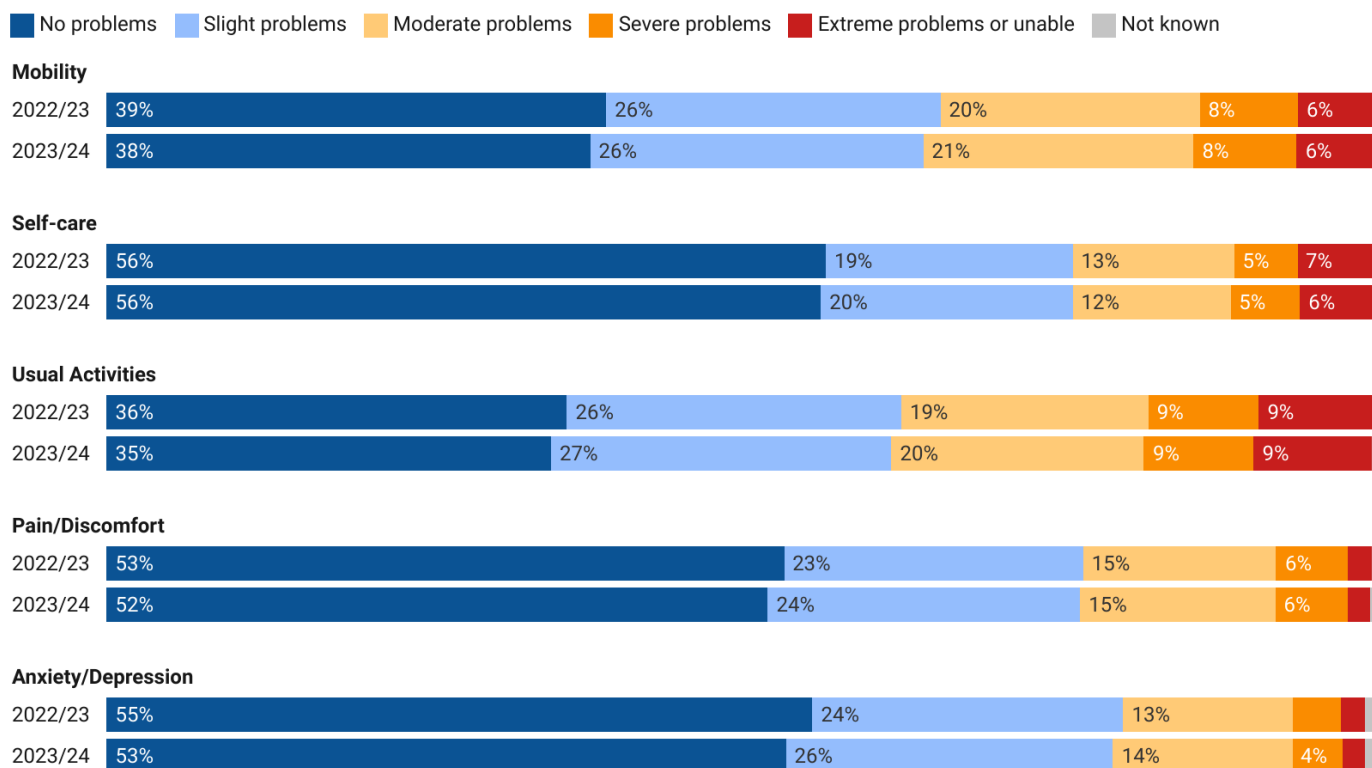
## Modified Rankin Scale (mRS) score before, after and at 6 months after stroke (2022-2024)



**Figure 2:** Comparison of mRS before stroke, at discharge from inpatient care (if discharged alive) and at six months after stroke between April 2022-March 2023 and April 2023-March 2024. Six month data only includes those patients that had a 6 month review (39% of applicable patients in 2023/24).

People leave hospital with a range of disabilities after stroke, as reflected by modified Rankin scale (mRS) scores. This highlights the importance of provision of integrated community stroke services. An increase in the percentage of people after stroke with no significant disability between discharge from inpatient care and six months after stroke, and a decrease in those with severe disability, have again been observed (fig. 2). This highlights opportunities for recovery through provision of stroke rehabilitation in the community.

### EQ5D-5L at 6 months after stroke (2022-2024)



**Figure 3:** Comparison of EQ5D-5L at 6 months after stroke for those having a follow-up assessment between April 2022-March 2023 and April 2023-March 2024. EQ5D-5L is a patient reported outcome measure.

Measuring a Patient Reported Outcome Measure (PROM) at 6 months reveals some of the ongoing needs of people recovering from stroke, at a time when NHS rehabilitation and support is often coming to an end. For example, one in five people with stroke report moderate or severe anxiety or depression, and almost one in four people report moderate or severe pain (fig. 3). These findings highlight the need to address some of the long-term effects of stroke that are often hidden, and services need to consider how to meet these needs.

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### Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP)

Further information on the programme including [data analysis and methodology](#), [full datasets](#), and [reports produced](#) are available on the SSNAP website: [www.strokeaudit.org](http://www.strokeaudit.org). The full annual results portfolio and annual thrombectomy portfolio can be accessed by going to: [www.strokeaudit.org](http://www.strokeaudit.org) > Results > Clinical audit > National > Annual.