

In total, between January 2011 and November 2011, some 10,600 claims ended and a date of death was recorded within six weeks of the claim end. This represents about 1% of the total ESA caseload in November 2011, the latest caseload data available. The table below shows the position of these claims when they were closed.

Those in the Support Group receive unconditional support due to the nature of their illness, which can include degenerative conditions, terminal illness and severe disability.

Note it is possible that the claimant had already closed their claim and then subsequently died, meaning that these figures may overestimate the true picture. Care should therefore be taken when interpreting these figures.

Table 3: Claimants leaving ESA between January and November 2011 with a recorded date of death, Great Britain.

WCA Outcome at most recent assessment	Number of claimants leaving ESA with a recorded date of death
Assessment not complete	2,200
Work Related Activity Group	1,300
Support Group	7,100
Total	10,600

Source: The figures are derived from administrative data held by the Department for Work and Pensions and assessment data provided by Atos Healthcare.

Note: All figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Data on the number of ESA claimants that have died following a fit for work decision is not available, as the Department does not hold information on a death if the person has already left benefit.

The Department does not hold information on the number of claimants who died whilst an appeal was in progress.

David Green (ESA.ANALYSIS@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK)

Department for Work and Pensions

July 2012