

Still minding the step?

A new estimation of the housing needs of wheelchair users in Scotland

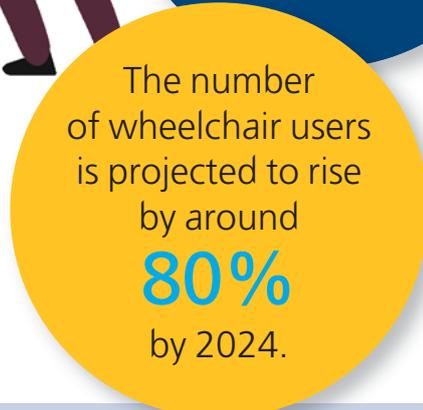


A summary of the report's main findings.

People

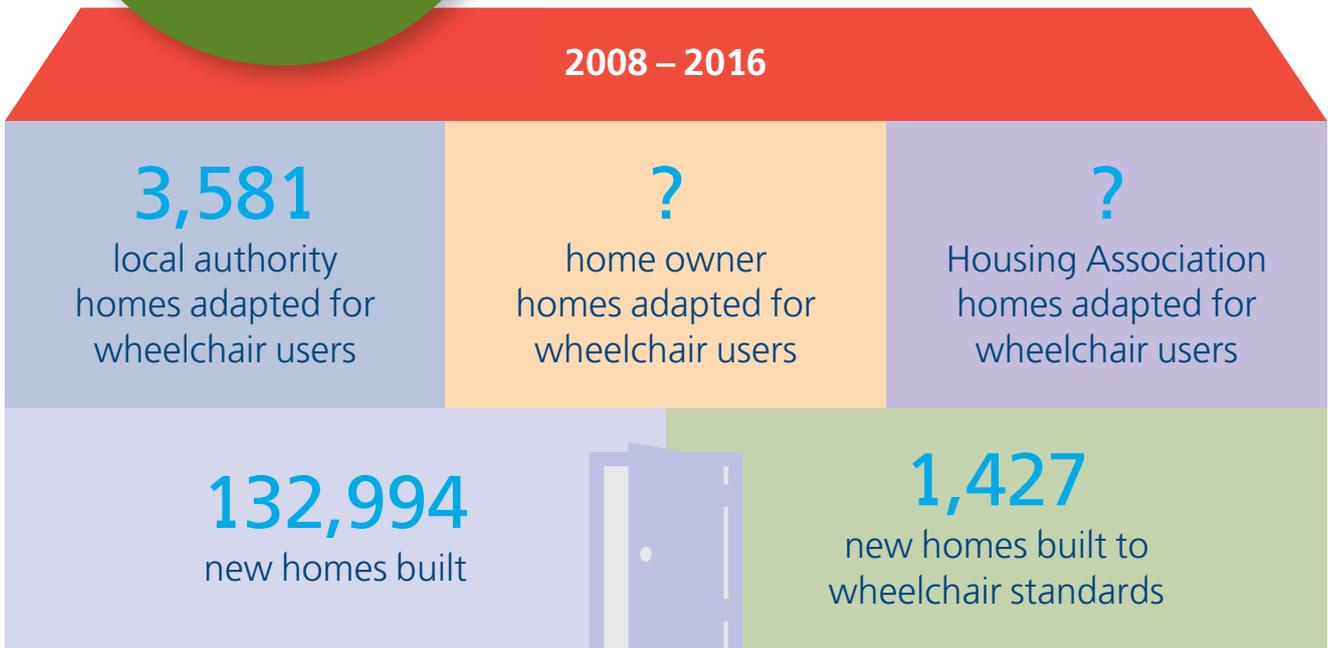


% increase in population using wheelchairs based on current health trends.



Homes that meet people's needs

19.7%
One in five
wheelchair users
say their home is not
suitable.

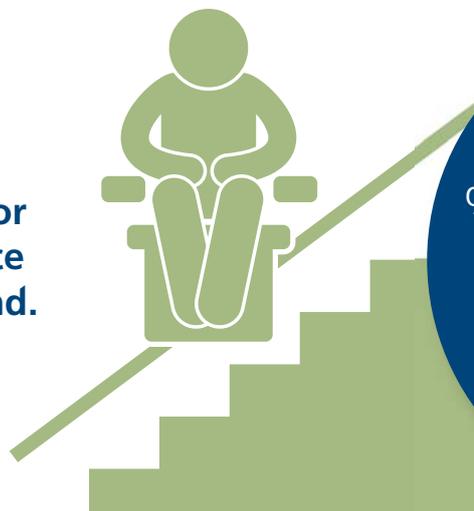


6.5%
of Scotland's
population projected to
use wheelchairs

1.07%
of new homes to
required standard,
most for social rent

Most existing homes not
suitable for adaptations

**We are not building or
adapting to keep pace
with need and demand.**



As the proportion
of people aged over 65
grows, along with numbers
of younger wheelchair
users living longer, so too
does the need for suitably
designed and adapted
homes.

Strategic plans

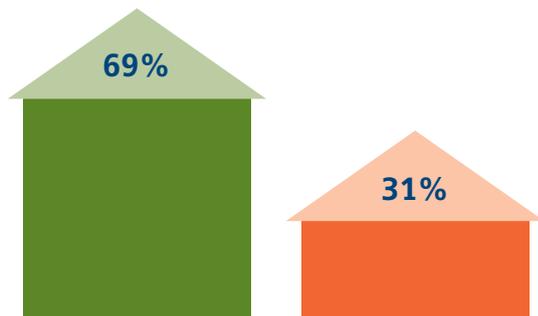
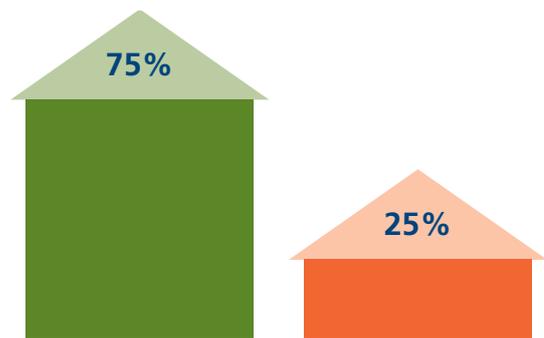
Wheelchair accessible design is not the same as "housing for varying needs".



Long term planning needs better data and connected strategic plans.

75%

of local housing strategies specifically mention homes for wheelchair users.

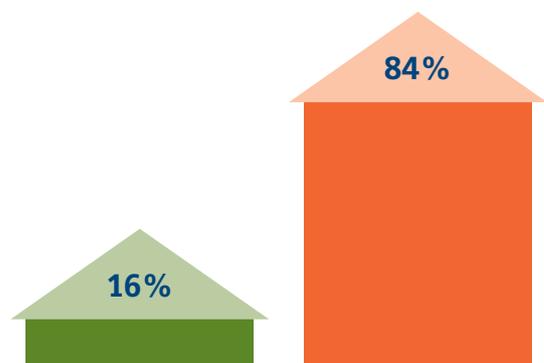


69% of local authorities assess the housing needs and demands of wheelchair users.

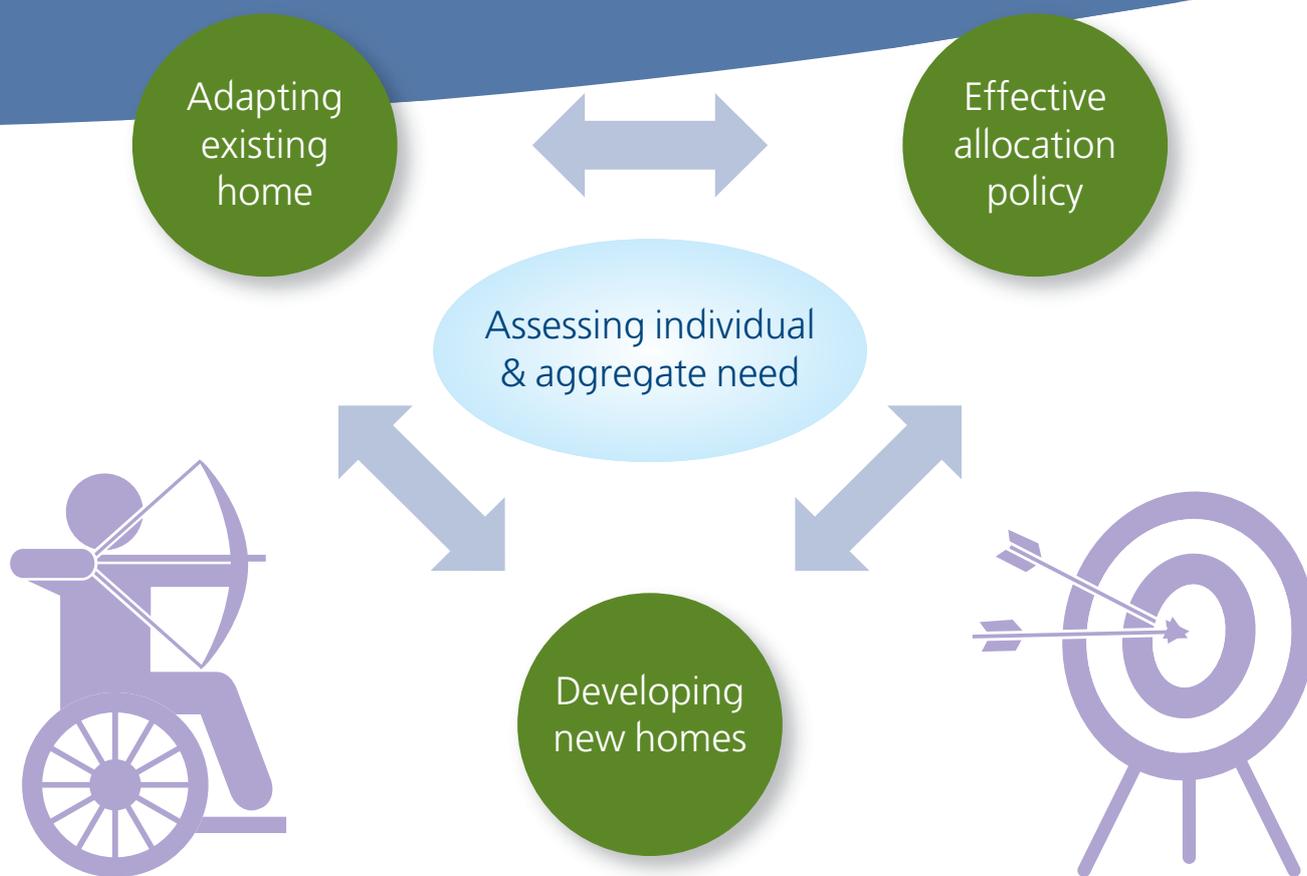
16%

of local authorities set targets for new homes to be built to fully accessible standards.

There is little recognition that people who use wheeled walkers have similar space needs to wheelchair users.



Our recommendations



Apply a three-way approach to tackling unmet needs.

Set a national guideline target for new homes, to be tailored locally.

Plan for wheelchair accessible housing to be in the mainstream.

Recognition design and space costs for wheelchair accessibility in government funding subsidy across tenures.

Review and update national design standards and definitions.

Address the gaps in data about housing needs and supply.