

Disfigurement: facts and figures.

What is disfigurement?

Disfigurement is used to describe the visual/aesthetic effects of a mark, scar, asymmetry or paralysis to the face or body.

Disfigurement can affect anyone, at any time, from any age and from any social and ethnic background.

What causes disfigurement?

Causes of disfigurement include:

- birthmarks, neurofibromatosis, cleft lips and/or palates and cranio-facial conditions
- accidents – scars from accidents, burns, mistakes in cosmetic procedures
- injuries from warfare and violence for example, acid and knife attacks
- cancer and its treatment, for example, surgery for head and neck cancer
- paralysis including strokes and Bell's Palsy
- skin conditions such as acne, eczema, vitiligo and psoriasis
- eye conditions, loss of an eye.



How many people in the UK have disfigurements?

- Over one million people in the UK (one in 44) have a significant disfigurement to their hands, body or face.
- Over half a million (one in 111) have disfigurements to the face.
- Over 415,000 people are likely to be born with or to acquire a disfigurement each year, some temporary some life-threatening.

How does *Changing Faces* help?

People who have disfigurements are likely to experience staring, bullying, prejudice and discrimination which can affect their quality of life – leading to disadvantage in school, work and relationships.

Changing Faces is the UK's leading charity supporting and representing people who have disfigurements. Each year, the charity helps hundreds of children, young people and adults to build their self-esteem and self-confidence to tackle the challenges they face – and works with health and social care professionals towards improved psychological and social care.

Changing Faces also aims to combat prejudice and discrimination and to promote face equality through its work with employers and schools and its innovative and challenging public campaigns.

The charity depends entirely on much-needed charitable donations in order to continue providing its important services and programmes.



www.changingfaces.org.uk

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