



department for
culture, media
and sport

improving
the quality
of life for all



Taking Part

DCMS's aim is to improve the quality of life for all through cultural and sporting activities, support the pursuit of excellence, and champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries.



Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport

Annual Report 2005/2006

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Executive Summary

This report is the first annual publication on the extent and nature of engagement and non-engagement in culture, leisure and sport based on the first annual sweep of the Taking Part Survey. The aim of the report is to set out the key high-level findings in order to baseline the levels of engagement amongst different groups of the population. To understand this further, the report also presents the main levers and barriers to engagement as well as exploring other relationships such as the impact of engaging as a child and other forms of involvement such as online access to culture and sport. This information along with the longer term set of outputs from the survey will help the Department and its partner bodies to better understand those who do, and do not, engage with its sectors.

Overall, more than nine out of ten adults had engaged in at least one form of cultural or sporting opportunity during the past twelve months.¹ Of which, just under four-fifths engaged by both attending a cultural event and participating in an art or sport activity. The remaining proportion had engaged through one form but not the other. Over two-thirds of adults had engaged in three or more different sectors and one-third in five or more during the past year. Those that did engage tended to be active engagers, with almost all of those who had taken part in one sector also taking part in at least one other.

Given the high proportion of adults who have engaged and the varied nature of the sectors under consideration, the report examines each individual sector in turn. The diverse range of activities covered means it is a challenge at this stage to present conclusions across the piece, as there is no clear overarching definition of engagement. For example, the frequency with which one participates in sport is significantly different to the frequency one might participate in the arts. Similarly, the reasons for the engagement can be very specific to the sector. For example, the reason one attends a library may be different to that for attending a museum/gallery. Therefore this report considers sectors individually with some analysis sector by sector of the overlap.

The report indicates where there may be inequalities in the level and nature of take-up across the different parts of society when it comes to engaging in culture, leisure and sport. An exhaustive list of all statistically significant findings is included in the individual chapters.

This report is essential in setting the scene. This is the first time engagement in these sectors has been assessed in one comprehensive document. The report focuses analysis on relationships between one dependent variable such as arts attendance and one explanatory variable such as age or income. The results will be used to direct a programme of in-depth follow-up reports. These will include topics such as modelling the data to understand the hierarchy of explanatory variables in predicting engagement and other analyses to profile and segment different patterns of engagement both within and across sectors.

¹ This is i) attendance at Historic Environment, Museums/Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Arts and ii) participation in Arts and Active Sport.

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Taking Part Survey

The Taking Part Survey was commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport working in partnership with several of its Non-Departmental Public Bodies.²

The survey collects data about engagement and non-engagement in culture, leisure and sport. This information will help the Department and its partner bodies to better understand those who do, and do not, engage with its sectors. This will provide vital evidence towards the Department's aim of improving the quality of life for everyone by providing people with the chance to get involved in a variety of these opportunities.

BMRB Social Research conducted 28,117 face to face interviews with adults aged 16 or over living in private households in England. The interviews were issued between mid-July 2005 and mid-July 2006 and conducted continuously between mid-July 2005 and the beginning of October 2006.

Survey respondents were asked about their engagement and non-engagement in activities during the twelve months prior to the day of interview. There is no geographical restriction placed on where the activity took place.

The survey measures involvement in activities where the purpose is for recreation or leisure, including voluntary work. It excludes involvement in activities where the prime motivation is paid work or academic study. The exceptions to this are attendance to historic environment sites which includes visits made for academic study and participation in sport which excludes refereeing, officiating and coaching.³

1.2 Structure of the Report

The report begins by examining patterns of cross-sector engagement. This includes the number and type of other activities undertaken by those who engage in each of the different cultural and sporting sectors.

The report then looks at each cultural, leisure and sporting sector in turn and provides the overall engagement rate as well as variations within population sub-groups. For ease of comparing across different sectors, where possible, the analysis included is standardised. However, authors were given scope to include additional analysis where there were findings or topics of particular interest to that sector.

² English Heritage, Arts Council England, Sport England, and Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

³ For more information see Methodological Note.

1.3 Guide to Tables and Figures

No answers/missing values

All analysis excludes don't know/refusals unless otherwise specified.

Percentages

Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding or multiple responses. In some cases only the findings with the highest percentage(s) are reported, this is based on the mid-point estimate and may have overlapping confidence intervals with other estimates.

Weighting

All estimates are weighted to compensate for differential response rates and sampling.

Statistical tests

The range has been calculated using a 95% confidence interval. On the bar charts this is represented by the error bars and on pie charts it is given in brackets. A design factor of 1.225 has been applied. All statistical significance refers to 95% level and all statistically significant findings are highlighted in the report.

Web-based workbooks

In some instances, specific data are not presented in this report or only a summary is provided. The complete data, including sample sizes and confidence intervals, can be found in the web-based tables which accompany this report.

Population estimates

These figures have been calculated by weighting the data according to the 2005 mid-year population estimates produced by the Office for National Statistics.

Population sub-groups

Analysis of certain variables may be excluded or altered where small sample sizes are too small to permit robust analysis.

Venn diagrams

Venn diagrams have not been drawn to scale.

For more information see Methodological Note and Glossary.