

National Indicators 8, 9 and 11 Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where can I find out more information about the National Indicator Set for Local Authorities?

The Local Government White Paper, Strong and Prosperous Communities, published in October 2007, committed to introducing a set of streamlined indicators that would reflect national priority outcomes for local authorities working alone or in partnership. A single set of 198 national indicators was announced as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. The set was reduced to 188 in April 2008 was reviewed again in April 2010, with the set reduced by a further 18 indicators.

The National Indicators for Local Authorities are co-ordinated by Communities and Local Government. More information can be found on CLG's website¹.

2. What indicators does DCMS have in the National Indicator Set?

DCMS has three National Indicators (NIs) within the set:

- NI8 Participation in sport and active recreation
- NI9 Use of public libraries
- NI11 Engagement in the arts

Indicator 10, visits to museums and galleries, was removed from the set during the review in April 2010.

3. Where can I find further information about NI8, 9 and 11?

For details on NI8, participation in sport and active recreation, please refer to Sport England's website² or see the NI8 Technical Note³.

For details on NI9 and NI11, participation in libraries and the arts, please refer to the baseline report⁴ published in December 2008. The report sets out the definition of each indicator and how performance will be measured. More information and advice on these indicators is also available via the NI9 and NI11 online Communities of Practice, hosted by IDeA – see <http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/login.do> (login required).

4. How is the data for NI8, 9 and 11 collected?

The data for the three DCMS indicators is collected via Sport England's Active People Survey. Data on museums and galleries continues to be collected alongside data for the three national indicators. The survey collects data via telephone interviews and the first year of the survey (2005/06) had an annual sample size of around 360,000 adults (aged 16 and over). The survey is now a continuous annual survey, with an annual sample of 190,000, representing every local authority in England. Further information on the Active People Survey can be found on Sport England's website: <http://www.sportengland.org/research.aspx>

1

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/performanceframeworkpartnerships/nationalindicators/>

² http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey/national_indicator_8.aspx

³ http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/march2008_NI8technicalnote_LAs.pdf

⁴ http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6233.aspx

5. What is the Active People Survey?

The Active People Survey was commissioned by Sport England in 2005 to measure participation in sport and active recreation in every local authority in England. It is the largest survey of sport and active recreation ever to be undertaken in Europe. It collects data via telephone interviews and has an annual sample size of around 360,000 adults (aged 16 and over).

In April 2008, the scope of the Active People Survey was extended to collect data for the purposes of the cultural National Indicators (NI9 and 11).

The Active People Survey is managed by Sport England. For more details, please refer to Sport England's website⁵.

6. What are the survey questions used to measure engagement in culture and sport?

A full questionnaire briefing document, which outlines all the questions in the survey, is available on Sport England's website⁶.

7. Has baseline data been published for NI8, 9 and 11?

NI8 – Sport England published NI8 2007/8 data in December 2008, alongside revised 2005/6 NI8 baseline data⁷ (please note 2005/6 baseline data was revised in November 2008; previous versions of the baseline data should not be used).

NI9 and 11 – a baseline report⁸ was published in December 2008 by DCMS. This also included a baseline for NI10. The report presents baseline estimates for those local authorities that selected one or more of cultural indicators NI9, 10 and 11. The report is accompanied by a workbook containing baseline estimates for each of the three cultural indicators for every upper-tier local authority in England.

You can also find the data via CLG's data reporting mechanism, the Data Interchange Hub⁹.

8. What does the 'minimum detectable change' mean in the baseline workbook?

This refers to the minimum percentage point change required between the baseline data and the final data to record a statistically significant (or 'real') increase in usage/participation. Please see the workbook accompanying the baseline report for further details.

9. When will the next data be available?

Interim progress for NI8-11 will be available in December 2009. Final progress for NI9-11 will be assessed in December 2010, and final progress for NI8 will be assessed in December 2011.

10. Is any further analysis available aside from the baseline data?

Sport England provides the Active People Diagnostic¹⁰, an innovative online reporting and analysis tool which gives stakeholders easy access to the survey

⁵ http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey.aspx

⁶ http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey/idoc.ashx?docid=fa95a28c-f30d-44cc-865d-613ee320c400&version=2

⁷ http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey/idoc.ashx?docid=1110ee41-42dc-48ee-bb9d-7e3da07e71b2&version=-1

⁸ http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6233.aspx

⁹

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/performanceframeworkpartnerships/nationalindicators/datainterchangehub/>

results at the touch of a button. The site is freely available to all – users have to register to access the site, which now has over 5,000 registered users.

11. Is data available at district level?

NI8 – data for NI8 is collected and assessed at district level.

NI9 and 11 – the baseline data that has been published is for upper-tier local authorities only, since the Local Area Agreements are set at this level. DCMS published district-level data in June 2009 to help local authorities understand how cultural participation varies within their areas.

12. What is the difference between the Taking Part Survey and the Active People Survey?

'Taking Part: England's Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport' is a national face-to-face household survey commissioned by the Department for Culture Media and Sport and jointly sponsored with Sport England, Arts Council England, English Heritage and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

Taking Part has been running continuously since July 2005. In addition to asking people about their participation in a range of cultural and sporting activities, Taking Part is designed to collect data on numerous related topics, including people's attitudes to sporting and cultural activities, the reasons why they do – or do not – take part in them, and the social context. The survey has an annual sample size of around 14,000 adults (aged 16 and over) and 3,000 children (aged 5 to 15).

The Active People Survey, with its much larger sample size of 360,000 (for the first year of the survey, Active People Survey 1) adults (aged 16 and over), is able to report statistics down to local authority level to measure change on key indicators (e.g. NI8). The Taking Part Survey presents statistics at a national and regional level on our sectors, measuring performance and providing detailed depth on those who engage¹¹.

13. Who do I contact with queries about the four DCMS indicators?

For specific queries about **NI8, participation in sport and active recreation**, please contact Sport England on research@sportengland.org

For specific queries about **NI9, participation in libraries**, please contact MLA on nationalindicators@mla.gov.uk

For specific queries about **NI11, engagement with the arts**, please contact Arts Council England on activepeople@artscouncil.org.uk

For general queries about the **DCMS indicators**, please contact DCMS on evidence@culture.qsi.gov.uk

For general queries about the **Active People Survey**, please contact Sport England on research@sportengland.org

Last updated: June 2010

¹⁰ <http://www.webreport.se/apd>

¹¹ http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/research_and_statistics/4828.aspx