

Engagement in culture, arts and leisure by adults in Northern Ireland

Findings from the Continuous Household Survey 2016/17

Annual publication

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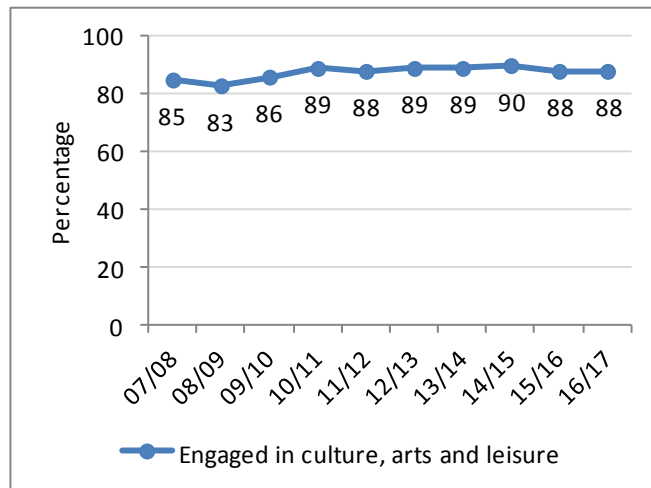
Coverage: Northern Ireland

Main stories

- In 2016/17, almost nine out of every ten adults (88%) had engaged in some way with culture, arts and leisure. This was the same as the engagement rate in 2015/16 and similar to comparable engagement rates since 2011/12.
- 85% of adults had engaged in culture and arts in 2016/17. This represents no change from 2015/16.
- Within the overall engagement rates, there has been a slight increase in 2016/17 in the proportion of adults visiting a museum or science centre.

Engaged in culture, arts and leisure

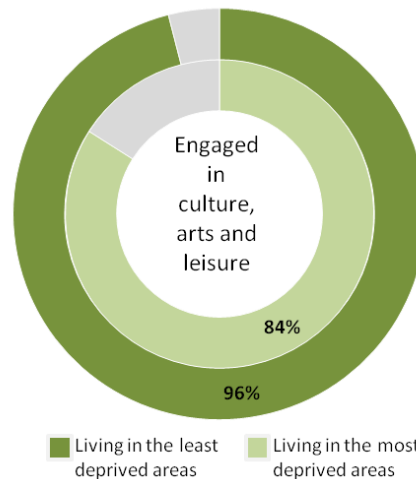
No change from last year's figure



In 2016/17, the proportion of adults engaging in culture, arts and leisure within the previous year was unchanged when compared with the previous year.

Engagement rates by deprivation

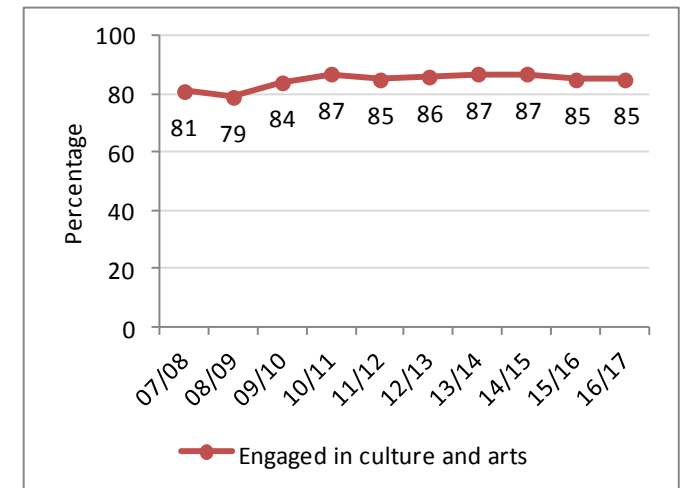
Adults living in the most deprived areas less likely to be engaged



A lower proportion of adults living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland engaged in culture, arts and leisure than adults living in the least deprived areas.

Engaged in culture and arts

No change from last year's figure



There has also been no change on the Programme for Government indicator of engagement in culture and arts when compared with the previous year.

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Introduction

The Department for Communities (DfC) is the lead department for:

- Arts and creativity: DfC provides funding for the arts in Northern Ireland, sets arts policy and supports arts based initiatives. A current key priority is to develop an Arts and Culture strategy.
- Sport: DfC aims to promote a culture of lifelong enjoyment and success in sport through its strategy for sport: Sport Matters.
- Museums: DfC is committed to ensuring the highest standards for our museums and that they continue to develop as attractions both for the local population and our ever increasing visitors.
- Libraries: DfC funds the public library service, Libraries NI, and has a vision for the public library service to be ‘a flexible and responsive library service which provides a dynamic focal point in the community and assists people to fulfil their potential’.
- PRONI: The official archive for Northern Ireland, containing public records and privately deposited archives.

Continuous Household Survey

This report presents the findings from the 2016/17 Continuous Household Survey (CHS) in relation to engagement with culture, arts and leisure in Northern Ireland which are used to inform the development, monitoring and evaluation of policy. More information relating to the CHS, methodology, definitions and the interpretation of the figures can be found in the [definitions and technical notes](#) section. Data tables are available in [Excel](#) and [ODS format](#).

The questions that were asked in the CHS 2016/17 are available [here](#).

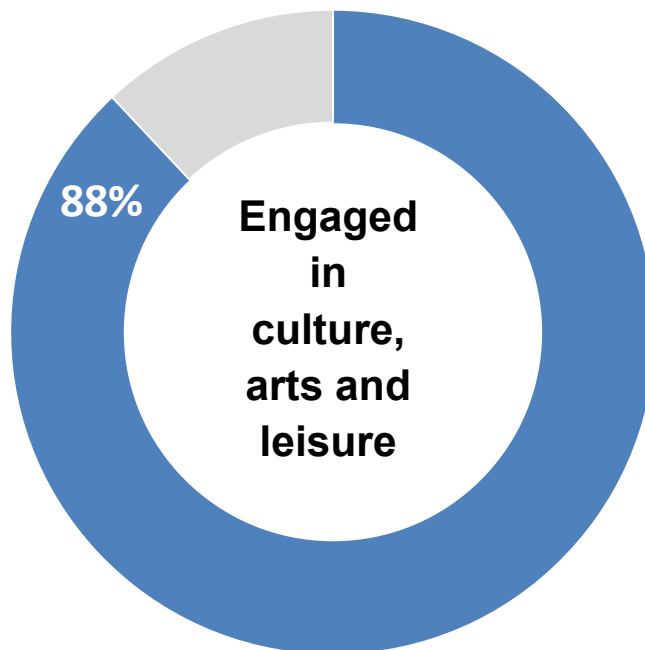
Engagement in culture, arts and leisure

Continuous Household Survey 2016/17



Arts

Arts engagement
81%



PRONI

Visited PRONI
3%



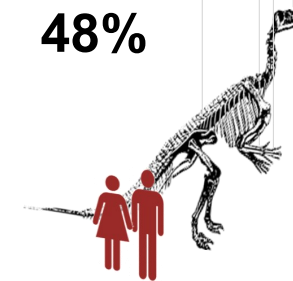
Sports

Sports participation
54%



Museums

Visited a museum or science centre
48%



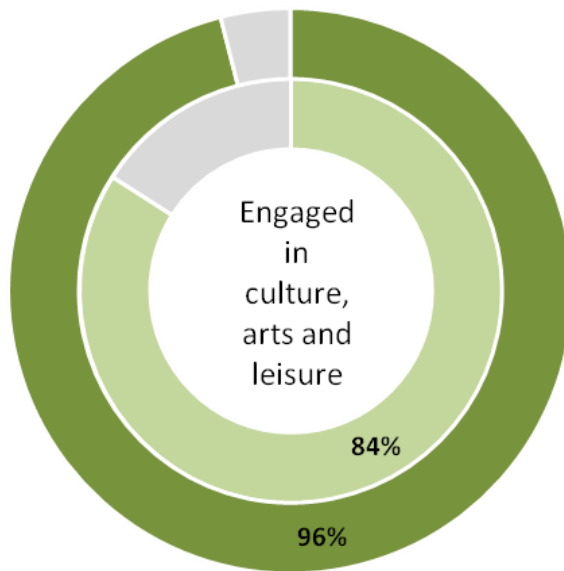
Libraries

Used the public library service
25%

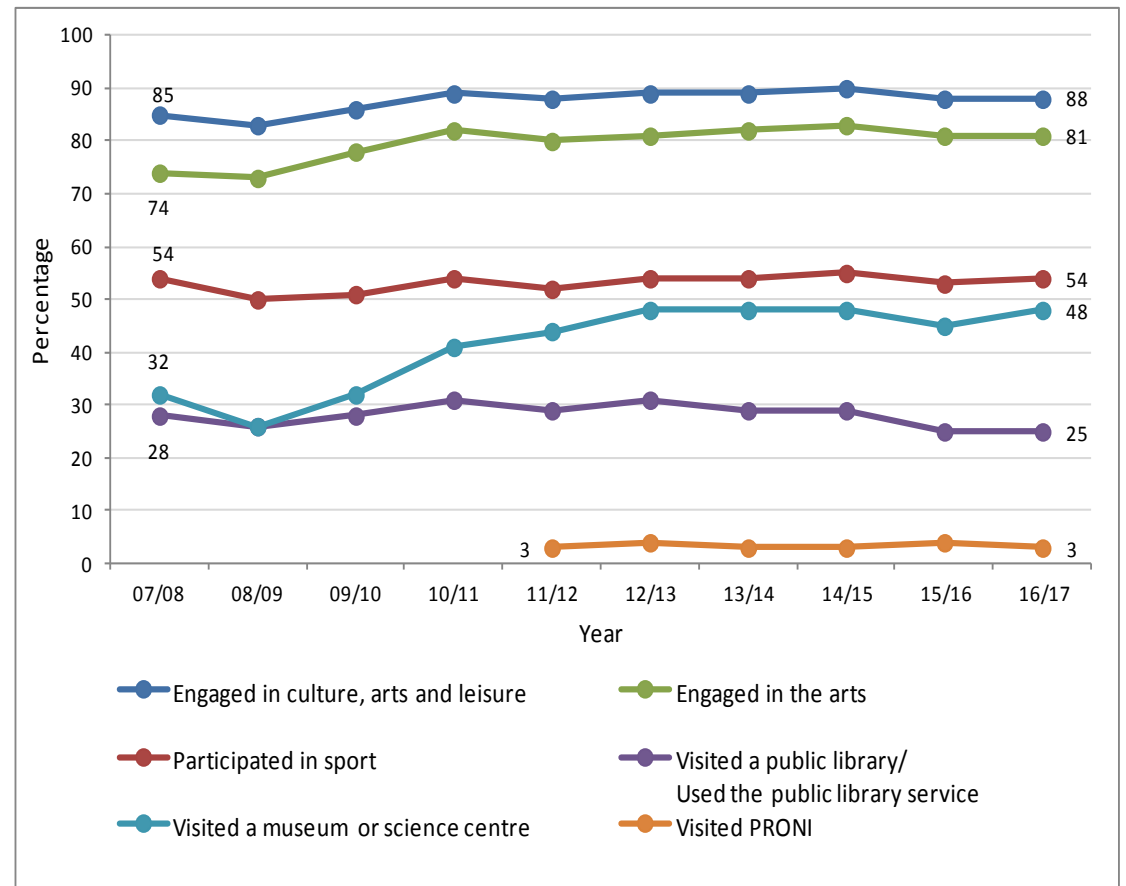


Culture, arts and leisure

- In 2016/17, almost nine out of every ten adults (88%) had engaged in some way with culture, arts and leisure.
- This was the same as the engagement rate in 2015/16 and similar to comparable engagement rates since 2011/12.
- Within the overall engagement rates, there has been a slight increase in 2016/17 in the proportion of adults visiting a museum or science centre.



■ Living in the least deprived areas
 ■ Living in the most deprived areas

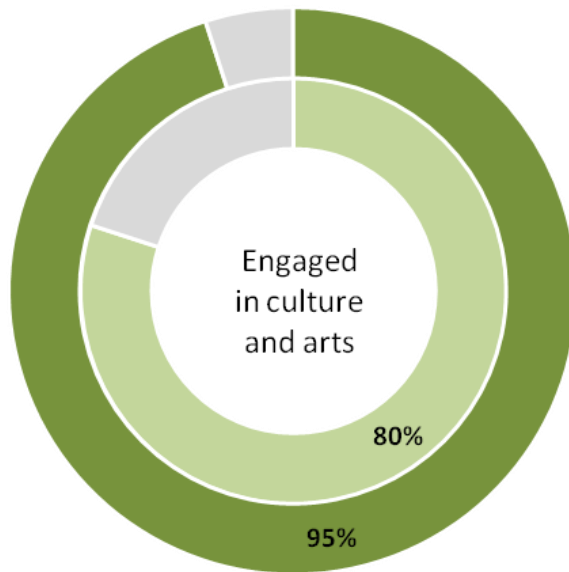


The full trend series for engagement in culture, arts and leisure has been revised to exclude visits to inland waterways and fishing in Northern Ireland waters. In May 2016, responsibility for these policy areas moved to DfI and DAERA respectively.

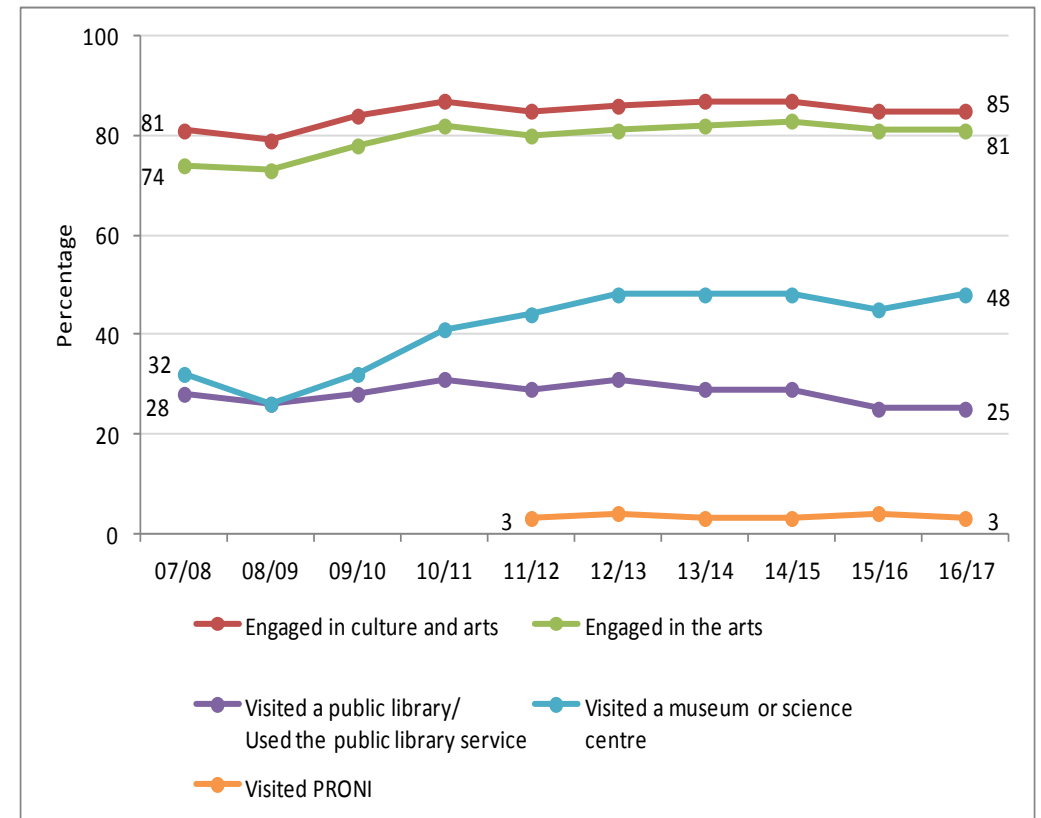
- In 2016/17, relatively fewer adults living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland had engaged in culture, arts and leisure than adults living in the least deprived areas.
- The culture, arts and leisure engagement rate for adults living in the most deprived areas has been lower than those living in the least deprived areas throughout the period 2007/08-2016/17.

Culture and arts

- The draft Programme for Government includes an indicator on engagement in culture and arts. In 2016/17, 85% of adults had engaged in culture and arts.
- This was the same as the engagement rate in 2015/16 and similar to comparable engagement rates since 2011/12.



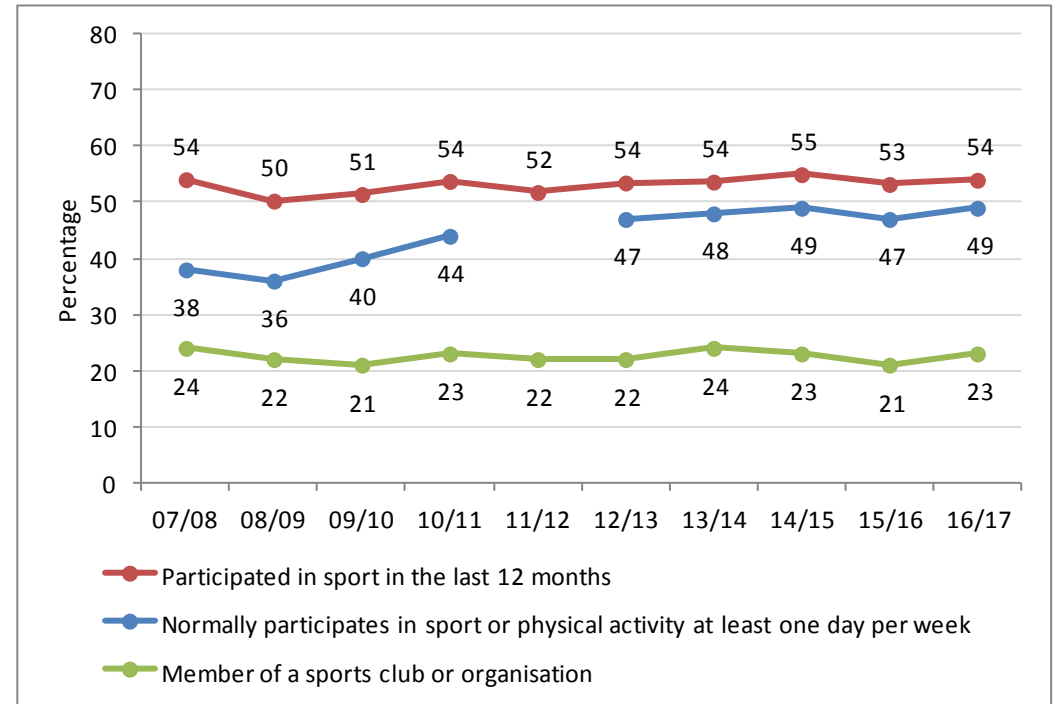
■ Living in the least deprived areas
 ■ Living in the most deprived areas



- In 2016/17, relatively fewer adults living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland had engaged in culture and arts than adults living in the least deprived areas.
- The culture and arts engagement rate for adults living in the most deprived areas has been lower than those living in the least deprived areas throughout the period 2011/12-2016/17.

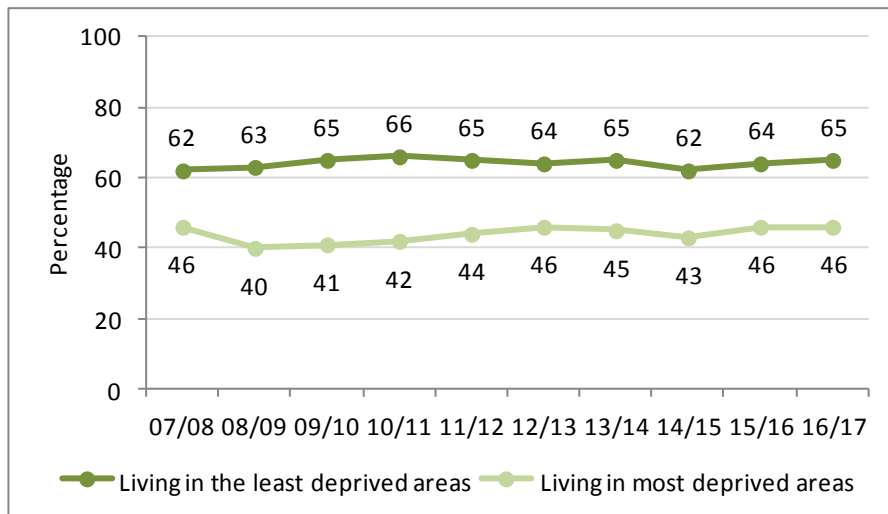
Sport

- In 2016/17, more than half of adults in Northern Ireland (54%) had participated in sport and physical activity within the last 12 months, a similar figure to 2015/16 (53%).
- A target was set in the strategic document Sport Matters, to halt the decline in sports participation by 2013. This was achieved in 2013 and has been maintained in the following three years.
- In 2016/17, around half of adults (49%) normally participated in sport and physical activity on at least one day a week. This figure was similar to the previous year, 2015/16 (47%).



The question on normally participating in sport or physical activity was not included in the CHS 2011/12.

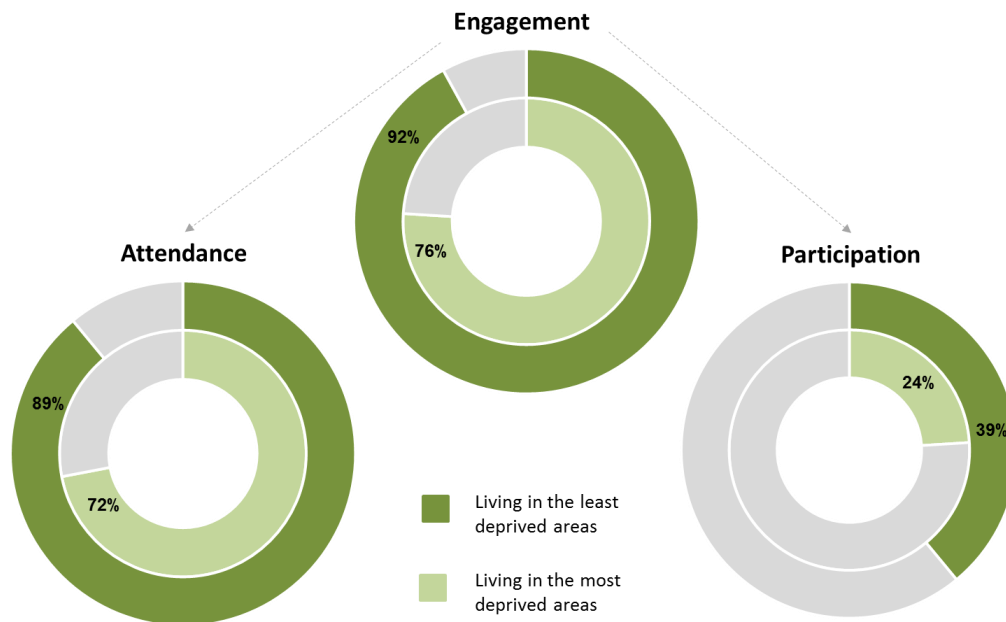
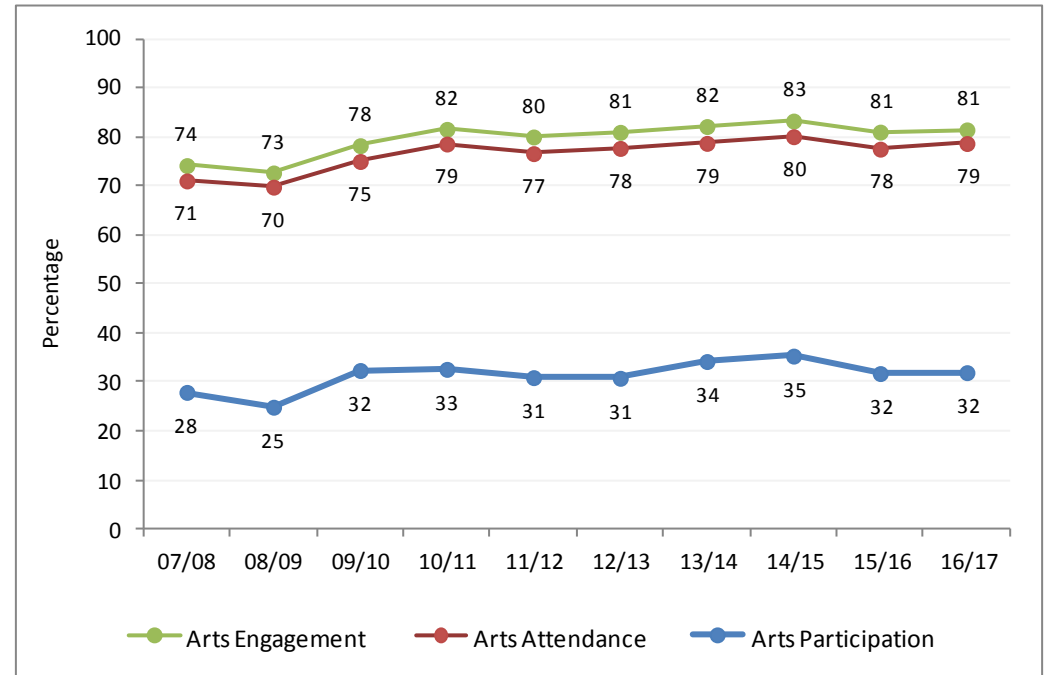
Sport participation by deprivation



- Almost a quarter of adults (23%) were members of a sports club in 2016/17, which is an increase on the previous year, 21% in 2015/16.
- Over the time period from 2007/08, sport participation by adults living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland initially decreased before returning to 46% in 2015/16 and 2016/17. Sport participation by adults living in the least deprived areas has remained relatively static over the same time period at around 65%.

Arts

- In 2016/17, just over eight in every ten adults (81%) had engaged with the arts within the previous year. This represents no change when compared with the 2015/16 engagement rate, following a decrease from a high of 83% in 2014/15.
- Just under a third of adults (32%) participated in arts activities within the last 12 months, while around eight out of every ten adults (79%) had attended an arts event. As with overall engagement rates, participation and attendance rates were unchanged when compared with 2015/16 and remained above the rates from the beginning of the time series.

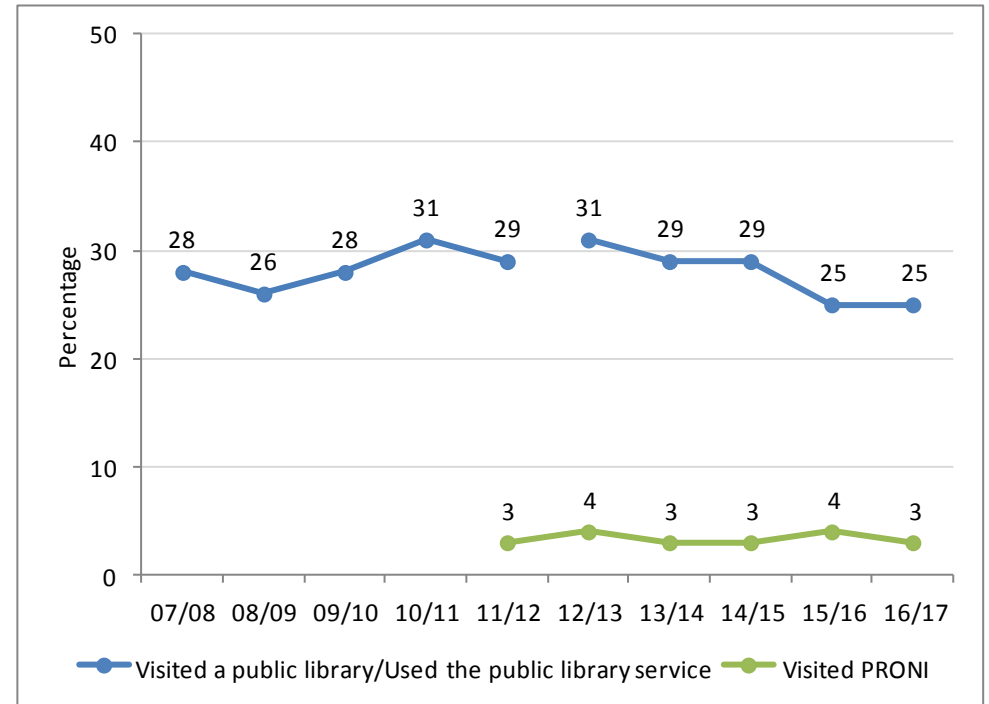


- Looking at arts engagement by adults living in the most and least deprived areas of Northern Ireland, the analysis shows that engagement rates have increased, over the long term, for each group.

Libraries and PRONI

Libraries

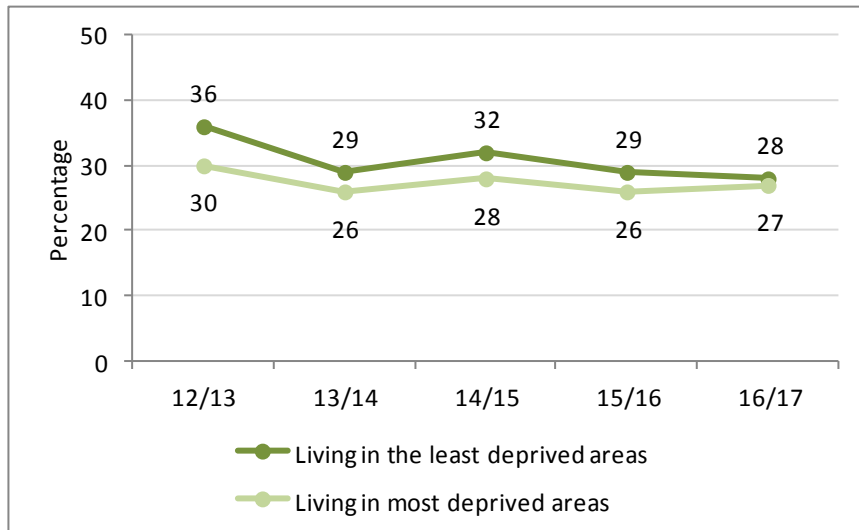
- In 2016/17, a quarter of adults (25%) had used the public library service at least once within the last 12 months. This shows no change on the 2015/16 figure but is lower than the earliest comparable figure of 31% in 2012/13.
- Use of the public library service among adults living in the least deprived areas was lower in 2016/17 than it was in 2012/13. For adults living in the most deprived areas, the proportions using the public library service were similar in 2016/17 and 2012/13. Overall, in 2016/17, there was no significant difference in the rates of public library usage between adults living in the most or least deprived areas of Northern Ireland.



There is a break in the series for libraries as the libraries question on the CHS changed in 2012/13 to include the wider range of services available in libraries including online services as well as visiting a public library.

The question on visiting PRONI was asked for the first time on the 2011/12 CHS.

Used the public library service by deprivation

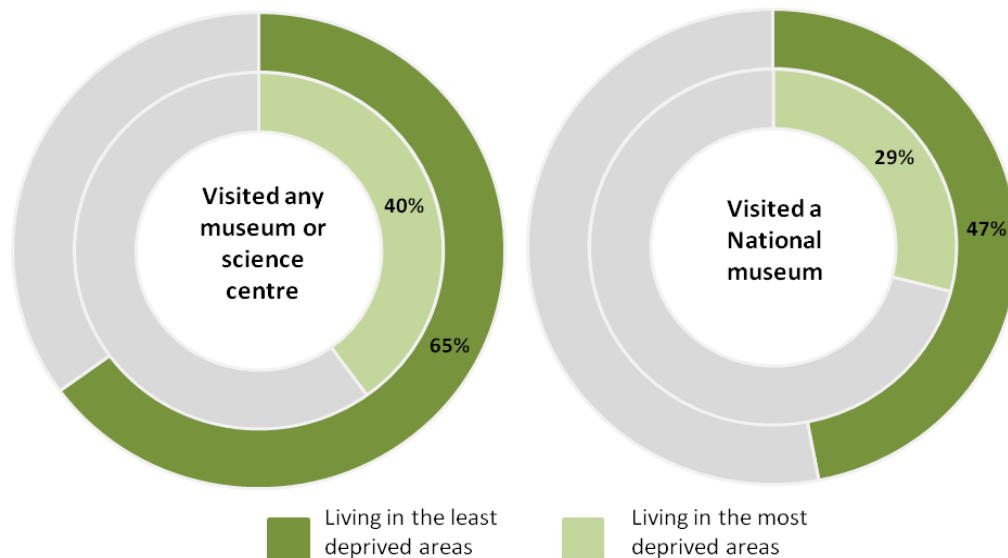
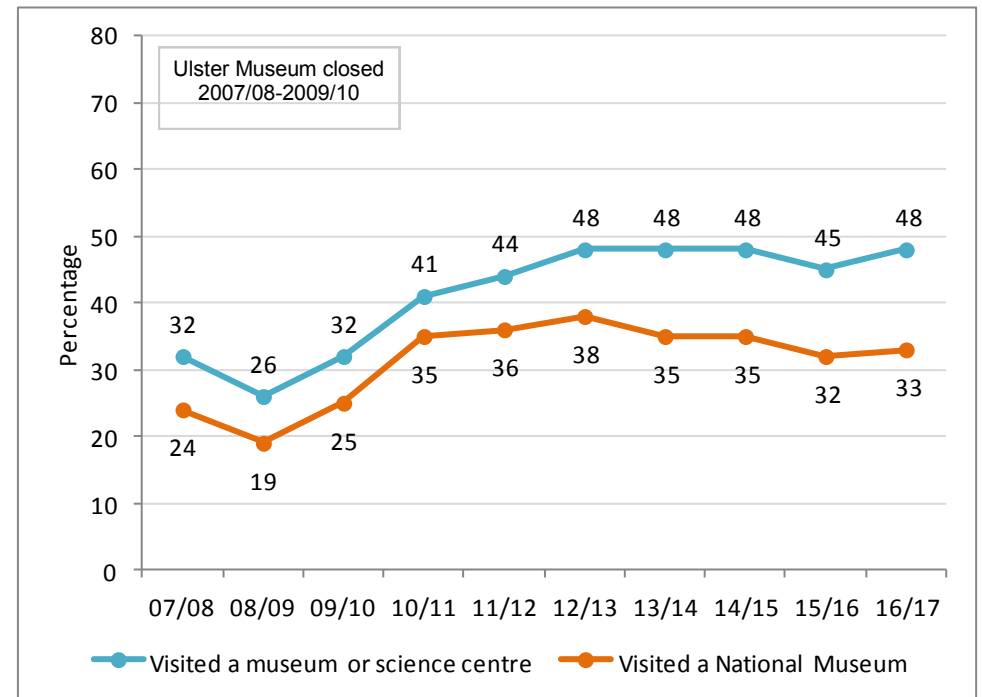


PRONI

- In 2016/17, three per cent of adults had visited PRONI within the last 12 months, similar to the 2015/16 and 2011/12 figures (4% and 3%, respectively).
- There was no difference in the proportion of adults living in the most deprived areas who had visited PRONI and those living in the least deprived areas.

Museums and science centres

- In 2016/17, 48% of adults had visited a museum or science centre within the last 12 months, an increase on the 2015/16 figure (45%). A third of adults (33%) had visited a National Museum, a similar figure to that in 2015/16 (32%).
- Whilst trend data are available back to 2007/08, it should be noted that these figures are affected by the closure of the Ulster Museum between October 2006 and October 2009. It is, therefore, more appropriate to make comparisons from 2010/11 onwards. Overall, the proportion of adults visiting a museum or science centre generally increased between 2010/11 and 2016/17, with a slight dip in 2015/16.



- Adults who live in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland were less likely to have visited any museum or science centre and a National Museum than adults living in the least deprived areas. Over the 2010/11-2015/16 time period, there have been increases in the proportions of adults who live in the most deprived areas and adults who live in the least deprived areas, visiting a museum or science centre.

Definitions and technical notes

Continuous Household Survey

The Continuous Household Survey is a Northern Ireland wide household survey administered by Central Survey Unit, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. The sample for this survey consists of a systematic random sample of 4,500 addresses selected from the Land and Property Service's list of private addresses. The findings reported for 2016/17 are based on 3,262 respondents, aged 16 and over, who answered the culture, arts and leisure modules of the survey.

Weighting the Continuous Household Survey (CHS)

Analysis of the culture, arts and leisure modules of the CHS have been weighted for non-response. A chi square goodness-of-fit test showed that the CHS sample was not representative of the population by age and sex when compared with the Population and Migration Estimates Northern Ireland 2015 (NISRA). As a result, three separate weights were produced for age, sex and age and sex combined.

Non-response weighting sometimes increases standard errors, although the impact tends to be fairly small, i.e. the adjustment may be less or greater than 1, but will generally be reasonably close to 1. In the case of the culture, arts and leisure modules of CHS, the values of the adjustment for all three weighting systems are so close to one, it is not necessary to take account of this in the calculation of standard error and confidence intervals.

While weighting for non-response (also called post-stratification) should reduce bias, it must be acknowledged that it will not eliminate bias. The reasons individuals choose to take part in surveys are complex and depend on lots of factors specific to the individual. As a result, the non-response biases in surveys are likely to be complex. Post-stratification works on the assumption that, by aligning the survey to the population along a small number of dimensions such as age and gender, many of these complex biases will reduce. However, it would be misleading to suggest that they will be eliminated.

Engaged in culture, arts and leisure - Have done at least one of the following in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- Participated in sport
- Engaged in the arts
- Used the public library service
- Visited a museum or science centre
- Visited PRONI

Engaged in culture and arts - Have done at least one of the following in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- Engaged in the arts
- Used the public library service
- Visited a museum or science centre
- Visited PRONI

Sport participation - Participated in at least one of the following activities in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- Rugby Union or league
- American football
- Football indoors (INC 5-A-SIDE)
- Football outdoors (INC 5-A-SIDE)
- Gaelic football
- Camogie
- Hurling
- Cricket
- Hockey (EXCLUDE ICE, ROLLER OR STREET HOCKEY)
- Netball
- Tennis
- Badminton
- Squash
- Basketball
- Table tennis
- Track and field athletics
- Jogging
- Cycling for recreation
- Indoor bowls
- Outdoor (lawn) bowls
- Tenpin bowling
- Swimming or diving
- Angling/fishing
- Yachting or dinghy sailing
- Canoeing
- Windsurfing/boardsailing
- Keepfit, aerobics, yoga, dance exercise
- Martial Arts (INCLUDE SELF DEFENCE)
- Weight training\lifting\body building
- Gymnastics
- Snooker, pool, billiards
- Ice skating (IF ROLLER EXCLUDE)
- Darts
- Golf, pitch and putt, putting (EXCLUDE CRAZY/ MINIATURE GOLF)
- Skiing
- Horse riding (EXCLUDE POLO)
- Motor sports
- Shooting
- Boxing
- Other

Member of a sports club – Member of a sports club or organisation.

Arts engagement – Either participated in arts activities or attended arts events in the 12 months prior to the CHS.

Arts participation – Participated in at least one of the following arts activities in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- Ballet
- Other dance (not for fitness)
- Sang to an audience or rehearsed for a performance (not karaoke)
- Played a musical instrument to an audience or rehearse for a performance
- Played a musical instrument for own pleasure
- Written music
- Rehearsed or performed in play/drama
- Rehearsed or performed in opera/opera
- Painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture
- Photography as an artistic activity (not family or holiday snaps)
- Made films or videos as an artistic activity (not family or holiday)
- Used a computer to create original artworks or animation
- Textile crafts such as embroidery, crocheting or knitting
- Wood crafts such as wood turning, carving or furniture making
- Other crafts such as calligraphy, pottery or jewellery making
- Written any stories or plays
- Written any poetry

Arts attendance – Attended at least one of the following arts events in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- Film at a cinema or other venue
- Exhibition or collection of art, photography or sculpture
- Craft exhibition (not a crafts market)
- Event connected with books or writing (such as poetry reading or storytelling)
- Circus
- Carnival
- An arts festival
- A community festival
- Play or drama
- Other theatre performance (such as a musical or pantomime)
- Opera/opera
- Classical music performance
- Rock or pop music performance
- Jazz performance
- Folk, or traditional or world music performance
- Other live music event
- Ballet
- An Irish dance performance
- Other dance event
- A museum

Used the public library service – Used the public library service at least once in the 12 months prior to the CHS, e.g. visited a public library or mobile library; used the Libraries NI website; attended a library event outside a library. Public library does NOT include school, college, or university libraries. A library event outside a library is an event run by Libraries NI which has taken place in a venue other than a library.

Visited PRONI – Have been to the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in the 12 months prior to the CHS.

Visited a museum or science centre – Visited one of the following museums or science centres in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- Andrew Jackson & US Rangers Centre
- Address House
- Argory
- Armagh County Museum
- Armagh Planetarium
- Armagh Public Library
- Ballycastle Museum
- Ballymoney Museum
- Barn Museum
- Carrickfergus Museum
- Castle Ward
- Coleraine Museum
- Craigavon Museum
- Down County Museum
- Downpatrick & County Down Railway Museum
- FE McWilliam Gallery and Studio
- Fermanagh County Museum
- Flame - the Gasworks Museum of Ireland
- Florencecourt
- Garvagh Museum & Heritage Centre
- Green Lane Museum
- Hezlett House
- Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum
- Inniskillings Museum
- Limavady Museum, RVACC
- Mid Antrim Museum
- Milford House Museum
- Mount Stewart
- Newry & Mourne Museum
- North Down Museum
- Northern Ireland War Memorial
- Police Museum
- Railway Preservation Society of Ireland
- Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum
- Royal Ulster Rifles Museum
- Sentry Hill House
- Somme Museum
- Springhill
- Strabane Museum Service
- Tower Museum
- Ulster American Folk Park
- Ulster Folk & Transport Museum
- Ulster Museum
- W5, Odyssey Centre
- Some other museum not mentioned

Visited a National Museum – Visited one of the following museums in the 12 months prior to the CHS:

- Ulster Museum
- Ulster Folk & Transport Museum
- Ulster American Folk Park

Deprivation – The data have been analysed by whether respondents are living in the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs) or in the 20% least deprived SOAs. This is estimated using the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 which is a weighted combination of seven domains of deprivation. Rank 1 indicates the most deprived SOA, while rank 890 denotes the least deprived SOA.

¹ [Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Report 2010](#)

Statistical significance in this report

Any statements in this report regarding differences between groups such as males and females, different age groups, religion, etc., are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. This means that we can be 95% confident that the differences between groups are actual differences and have not just arisen by chance. Both the base numbers and the sizes of the percentages have an effect on statistical significance. Therefore on occasion, a difference between two groups may be statistically significant while the same difference in percentage points between two other groups may not be statistically significant. The reason for this is because the larger the base numbers or the closer the percentages are to 0 or 100, the smaller the standard errors. This leads to increased precision of the estimates which increases the likelihood that the difference between the proportions is actually significant and did not just arise by chance.

Other notes

The following should be noted when interpreting figures and tables:

- Percentages less than 0.5% are denoted by '0' and where there are no responses, they are denoted by '-'.
- Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
- Percentages may not add to 100% for questions where multiple responses are allowed.
- Detailed tabulations are not provided where the number of respondents is too small to allow meaningful analysis.
- The base number of responses to each question, which is shown in each table, is the unweighted count. The base may vary due to some respondents not answering certain questions.