

Background Quality Report for the series of publications on engagement in culture, arts and sport. These publications have been assessed as below in line with the six quality dimensions of the European Statistical System.

| Dimension | Assessment by the author |
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| Introduction | <p data-bbox="533 398 938 432"><i>Context for the quality report.</i></p> <p data-bbox="533 439 1278 510">Three Official Statistics bulletins are published triennially presenting findings for the preceding financial year:</p> <ul data-bbox="584 555 1369 748" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="584 555 1369 622">• Engagement in culture, arts and leisure by young people in Northern Ireland <li data-bbox="584 633 1369 701">• Experience of culture and arts by young people in Northern Ireland <li data-bbox="584 712 1369 748">• Experience of sport by young people in Northern Ireland <p data-bbox="533 790 1358 902">Occasionally ad-hoc publications will be produced, for example Knowledge of Irish and Ulster-Scots and Volunteering. Such publications will also be covered by this Quality Report.</p> <p data-bbox="533 947 1362 1283">The data in these bulletins are derived from the Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey (YPBAS). The YPBAS is a representative survey of young people, aged 11-16, in post-primary education in Northern Ireland. The survey is administered by Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Respondents to the YPBAS are asked about a variety of subjects including their engagement in the previous 12 months with culture, arts and sport activities.</p> <p data-bbox="533 1339 1358 1597">The YPBAS has been running triennially since 2000, with questions on culture, arts and sport being included from that date. Since then, the module of questions has been developed and is now a key source of information for the Department for Communities. From 2007, two versions of the questionnaire have been used to accommodate demand for topics. Schools are randomly assigned one version of the questionnaire.</p> <p data-bbox="533 1653 1374 1888">The Department of Education (DE) provides CSU with a list of all post-primary schools in Northern Ireland (excluding independent schools and those which catered solely for pupils with special needs). All post-primary schools are contacted and invited to participate. A class in each of the five year groups (years 8-12) is then randomly selected to take part. Only pupils from the selected classes are included in the survey.</p> <p data-bbox="533 1933 1353 2045">The YPBAS is a self-completion survey carried out in class sized groups, where pupils complete the questionnaire on tablets, under the supervision of CSU interviewers and school staff to</p> |

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| | <p>help with any technical issues. After all classes are surveyed, the data is transferred to CSU for validation and analysis.</p> <p>In 2019, all 196 post-primary schools were contacted and invited to participate. Eighty schools agreed to participate in the study, resulting in a response rate of 41%. A total of 3,892 pupils were surveyed using Version A (response rate 85%) and 4,226 pupils using Version B of the questionnaire (response rate 87%). DfC's questions on engagement of culture, arts and sport were included in Version A.</p> |
| <p>Relevance</p> | <p><i>The degree to which the statistical product meets user needs in both coverage and content.</i></p> <p>The bulletins provides data for Northern Ireland for engagement in culture, arts and sports. For each of these indicators, the bulletins include a population level analysis and also a breakdown by various sections of society, including Section 75 categories, where possible.</p> <p>In addition, engagement in culture and arts by adults has been included as an indicator in the draft Programme for Government for Northern Ireland. The bulletins provide additional context around this indicator by providing engagement levels for young people.</p> <p>The bulletins include infographics, charts and associated commentary to communicate the findings to the end user. In addition, all data is provided in both Excel and OpenDocument spreadsheets. Explanatory notes within the tables and a technical annex have been included to provide the end user with additional information on the methodology and definitions used in the presentation of statistics.</p> <p>Consultation is carried out triennially with a key user group to agree the questions to be included in the YPBAS to ensure they continue to cover the key requirements for users.</p> |
| <p>Accuracy and reliability</p> | <p><i>The proximity between an estimate and the unknown true value.</i></p> |
| | <p>In 2019, all 196 post-primary schools, were contacted and invited to participate. Eighty schools agreed to participate in the study, resulting in a response rate of 41%. One class in each of the five year groups (years 8-12) was then randomly selected to take part in the study. A total of 3,892 pupils were surveyed using Version A (response rate 85%) and 4,226 pupils using Version B of the questionnaire (response rate 87%). DfC's questions on engagement of culture, arts and sport were included in Version A.</p> |

In order to reflect the composition of the Northern Ireland post-primary population, weights can be applied to the data to compensate for non-response bias in the achieved YPBAS sample. Figures from School Census are used to derive weights. As there are two versions of the questionnaire, three different sets of weights are calculated:

1. Questions/modules common to both questionnaires
2. Version A
3. Version B

While all school management groups were represented in the overall achieved YPBAS sample, not all are represented in the sample for both Version A and B and this is reflected in the construction of the weights.

The results presented in these reports are weighted by gender, religion and year group in order to reflect the composition of the Northern Ireland post-primary population. Since a three stage sample design was used; schools, classes and pupils, the required assumption of random sampling was not met for significance testing. Standard errors were calculated for some of the variables in the survey using a formula for complex samples. However, when these were compared with standard errors calculate using the formula for random samples there was little difference. As a result, tests of statistical significance in these bulletins have been carried out using the formula for random samples.

Any statements in the reports regarding differences between groups such as different years and whether young people are entitled to free school meals, 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.

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| Timeliness and punctuality | <p><i>Timeliness refers to the time gap between publication and the reference period. Punctuality refers to the gap between planned and actual publication dates.</i></p> |
| | <p>Professional Services Unit of the Department for Communities, who produce these bulletins, usually receive the final validated YPBAS dataset by June in the year following the survey.</p> <p>The first bulletin, <i>Engagement in culture, arts and sport by young people in Northern Ireland</i>, is released with headline data by the end of July in the year following the survey.</p> <p>The remaining bulletins require more detailed analysis by the various demographic groups, as well as by area, and these are produced to the following timetable, which mirrors the production timetable of the comparative CHS reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September: <i>Experience of culture and arts by young people in Northern Ireland</i> • October: <i>Experience of sport by young people in Northern Ireland</i> • November: Ad-hoc reports e.g. Knowledge of Irish and Ulster-Scots, Volunteering <p>The bulletins are all published on their planned dates, as pre announced on the Department for Communities website and GOV.UK.</p> |
| Accessibility and Clarity | <p><i>Accessibility is the ease with which users are able to access the data, also reflecting the format in which the data are available and the availability of supporting information. Clarity refers to the quality and sufficiency of the metadata, illustrations and accompanying advice.</i></p> |
| | <p>All bulletins are published in PDF format, on the Department for Communities website on the pre-announced publication date. The bulletins are also available in alternative formats on request. Within the bulletins, a number of charts have been provided with titles, axis names and footnotes added to help clarify certain information where applicable. The bulletins also follows The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 ensuring they can be used by as many people as possible; including those with impaired vision, motor difficulties, cognitive impairments or learning disabilities, deafness or impaired hearing.</p> |

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| | <p>Additionally, the bulletins include an annex which provides summary background information, definitions and methodological explanations.</p> <p>Accompanying data tables, in Microsoft Excel and Open Document format, are also available on the Department for Communities' website.</p> <p>The key findings from the bulletins are summarised by infographics that have been included within the bulletins.</p> <p>The contact details of the responsible statisticians are also included in each of the bulletins and in the Excel and Open Document spreadsheets.</p> |
| Coherence and Comparability | <p><i>Coherence is the degree to which data that are derived from different sources or methods, but refer to the same topic, are similar. Comparability is the degree to which data can be compared over time and domain.</i></p> |
| | <p>The statistics contained within the bulletins are derived solely from the YPBAS. Questions on engagement in culture, arts and sport have been included since 2000. The current range of questions has been included on a consistent basis since 2007 allowing for comparability over time.</p> <p>Data for engagement in culture, arts and sport are available from a range of sources for the United Kingdom, such as Taking Part for England. However, due to differences in the definitions and survey methodologies used many of these are not directly comparable with the estimates in these bulletins for Northern Ireland.</p> |
| Trade-offs between output quality components | <p><i>Trade-offs are the extent to which different aspects of quality are balanced against each other.</i></p> |
| | <p>In some cases, sub-population analysis is not possible due to small sample sizes.</p> |
| Assessment of user needs and perceptions | <p><i>The process for finding out about users and uses, and their views on the statistical products.</i></p> |
| | <p>Contact details for the responsible statisticians are provided in each of the bulletins and in the Excel and Open Document spreadsheets.</p> |

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| | <p>Consultation is carried out triennially with a key user group to agree the questions to be included in the YPBAS to ensure they continue to cover the key requirements for users.</p> |
| Performance, cost and respondent burden | <p><i>The effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the statistical output.</i></p> |
| | <p>The overall cost of running the YPBAS cannot be provided as this is commercial-in-confidence.</p> <p>The production of the bulletins is carried out by an Assistant Statistician (0.25 FTE) and managed by a Deputy Principal Statistician (0.1 FTE).</p> <p>It is estimated that the responses to the Department for Communities questions on which the bulletins are based take on average 11.5 minutes for a respondent to complete.</p> |
| Confidentiality, transparency and security | <p><i>The procedures and policy used to ensure sound confidentiality, security and transparent practices.</i></p> |
| | <p>Professional Services Unit of the Department for Communities follows the 'National Statistician's Guidance: Confidentiality of Official Statistics' in the collection and dissemination of these statistics. This can be found at: http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/national-statistician/ns-reports--reviews-and-guidance/national-statistician-s-guidance/index.html.</p> <p>Standard disclosure control methodology is applied to the data. This ensures that information attributable to an individual is not identifiable in any published outputs and that the outputs are only seen by authorised staff prior to their publication.</p> |