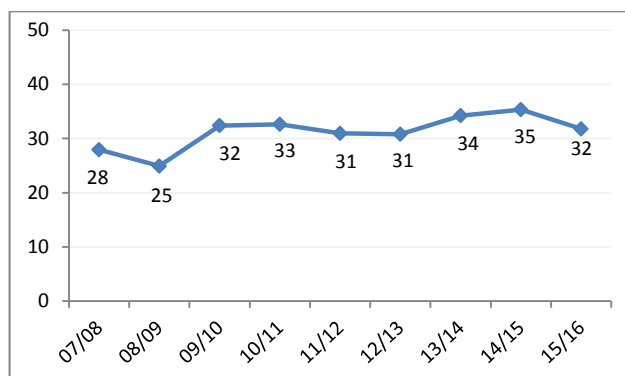


Main stories

- Overall, there was decline in the proportion of adults attending an arts event and in the proportion of adults participating in the arts compared with the previous year's figures. However both figures are generally in-line with the longer term trends.
- Textile crafts such as embroidery, crocheting or knitting', 'Playing a musical instrument for own pleasure' and 'Painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture' were the most popular arts participated in amongst adults.

Participation in arts

Decrease from previous year's figures



The proportion of adults who had taken part in an arts activity within the last year (32%) was lower than the previous year's figure (35%) but consistent with the trend since 2009/10.

Most popular arts activities

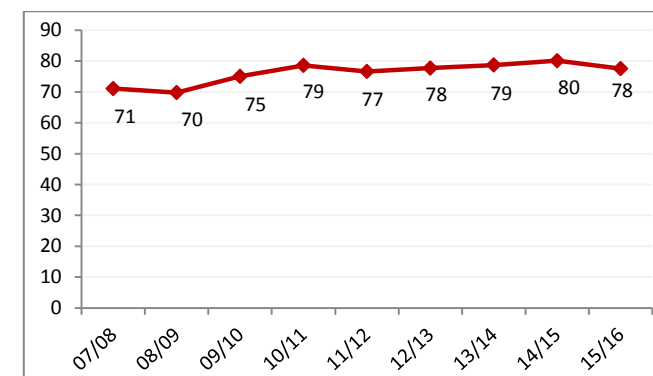
Most popular arts activities remain the same



'Textile crafts such as embroidery, crocheting or knitting' (9%), 'Playing a musical instrument for own pleasure' (8%), 'Painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture' (7%) and 'Photography as an artistic activity' (5%) were the most popular arts activities to participate in within the previous year.

Attendance at arts events

Decrease from previous year's figures



The proportion of adults attending an arts event within the previous year (78%) decreased on the previous year's figure (80%) but was consistent with the longer term trend.

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Introduction

The Department for Communities (DfC) provides funding for the arts in Northern Ireland, sets arts policy and supports arts based initiatives. DfC works with a number of arts organisations to deliver world class arts and cultural facilities within Northern Ireland. The Department's aims for arts are to enhance the quality of arts infrastructure, increase participation in and improve access to the arts.

One outcome of the draft Programme for Government (PfG) in Northern Ireland is that "We are an innovative, creative society where people can fulfil their potential". A primary indicator for this measure is the "percentage engaging in arts / cultural activities in the past year". The draft PfG acknowledges that cultural engagement impacts positively on general wellbeing and can also bring benefits in learning and education. Within the draft delivery plan for this indicator, a key underpinning value behind actions will be to provide access to cultural engagement for all, enabling everyone to have the opportunity to benefit from engagement.

The [Arts Council of Northern Ireland \(ACNI\)](#) is funded by DfC to develop the arts in Northern Ireland. In order to achieve its ambitions for the arts, ACNI have set out their priorities within the publication "[Ambitions for the Arts: A Five Year Strategic Plan for the Arts in Northern Ireland 2013-2018](#)" and these are set out under the three broad themes below:

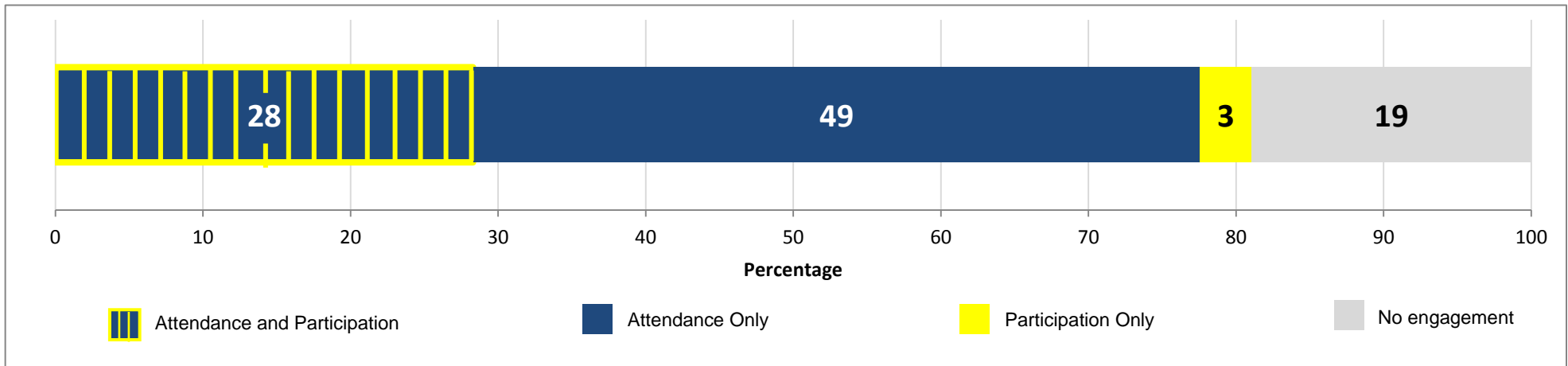
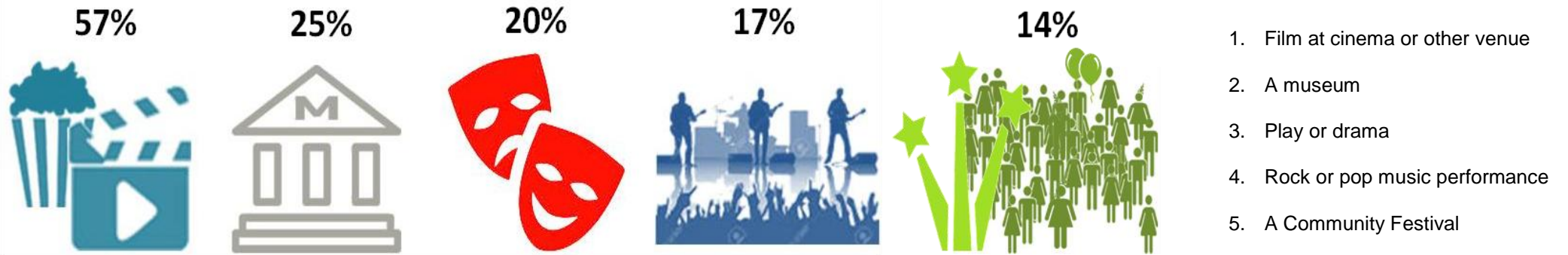
- Championing the arts
- Promoting access
- Building a sustainable sector

Continuous Household Survey

This report presents the findings from the 2015/16 Continuous Household Survey (CHS) in relation to engagement with the arts in Northern Ireland. More information relating to the Continuous Household Survey, methodology, definitions and the interpretation of the figures can be found in the [definitions and technical notes section](#). Participation in arts activities and attendance at arts events in 2015/16 are based on participation or attendance during the year prior to respondents being surveyed. Data tables are available in [Excel](#) and [ODS format](#). The questions that were asked in the CHS 2015/16 are available [here](#).

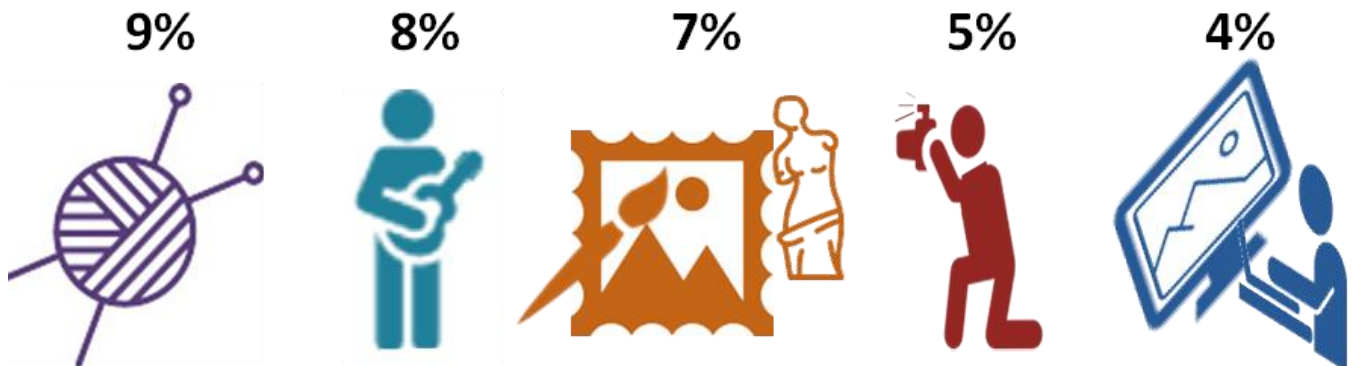
Engagement with the arts 2015/16

Attendance at an arts event



Participation in arts

1. Textile crafts such as embroidery, crocheting or knitting
2. Played a musical instrument for own pleasure
3. Painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture
4. Photography as an artistic activity (not family or holiday snaps)
5. Used a computer to create original artworks or animation

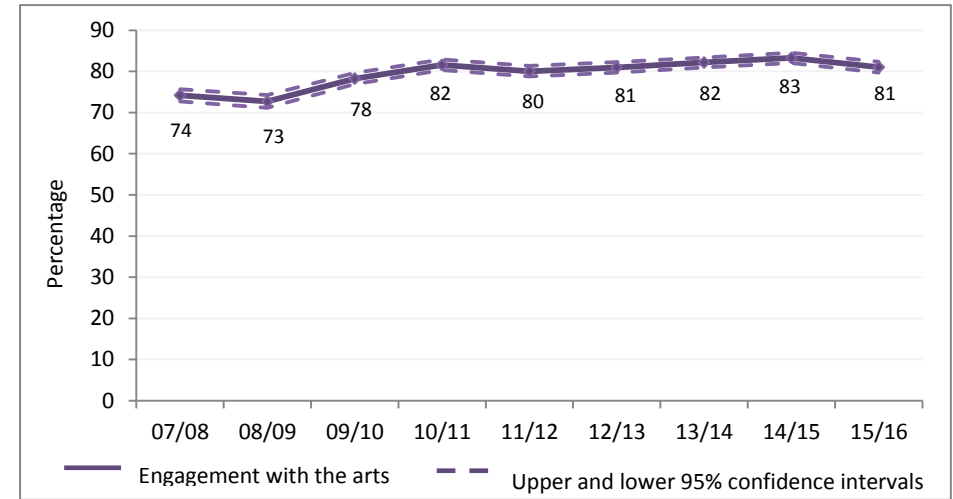


Arts trends

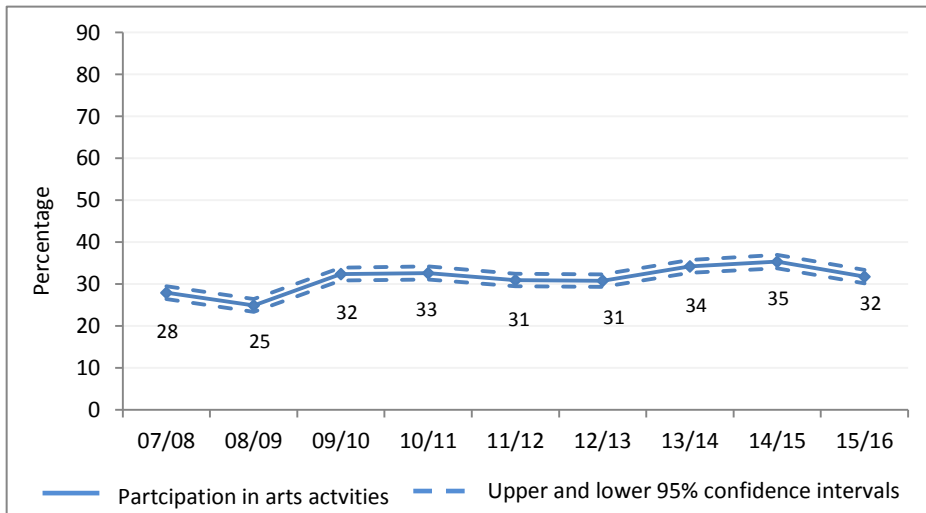
Decline in all indicators but consistent with longer trends

Just over 8 in every 10 adults, had engaged with the arts at least once within the previous year since 2010/11. This trend followed an increase from the 2007/08 (74%) and 2008/09 (73%) figures in 2009/10 (78%) followed by a further increase in 2010/11 (82%). 'Engagement with the arts' is largely driven by attendance at arts events. Consistently over the trend period, only 3% of adults had participated in an arts activity without also having attended an arts event within the year. Although the latest figure for engagement with the arts (81%) is a decrease on the previous year's figure (83%) it is consistent with the general trend since 2010/11. This decrease on the 2014/15 figure is seen with both components of engagement with arts namely 'attendance at an arts event' and 'participation in an arts activity'. However, the 2015/16 figures for both these statistics are also consistent with their trends since 2010/11.

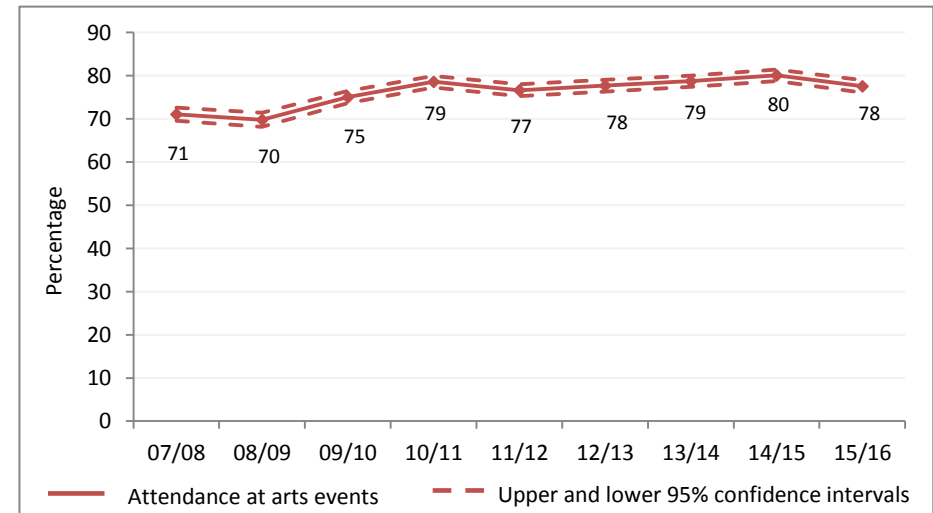
Engagement with the arts

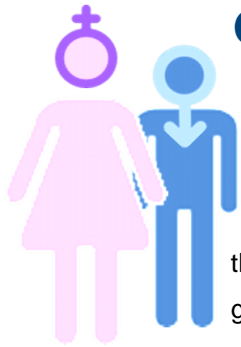


Participation in arts



Attendance at arts events

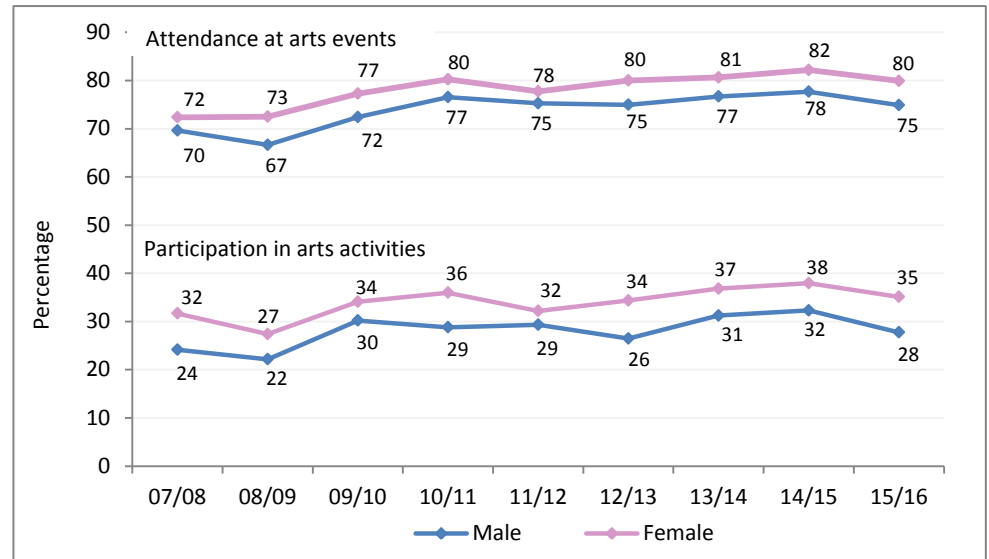




Gender and engagement with arts

Men less likely to engage with arts

Women were more likely to have engaged with arts within the previous year (84%) than men (78%), a result of both their greater likelihood of having participated in an arts activity (35%) and having attended an arts event (80%) within the previous year than men (28% and 75%, respectively). This has also been the case throughout the entire trend period with a higher proportion of women engaging with arts than men year on year. This gender difference is reflected with both 'participation in arts activities' and 'attendance at arts events' statistics across the majority of years.



16%
Textile crafts such as embroidery, crocheting or knitting

8%
Painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture

6%
Played a musical instrument for own pleasure

5%
Other Dance (not for fitness)

4%
Other crafts such as calligraphy, pottery or jewellery making



10%
Played a musical instrument for own pleasure

6%
Photography as an artistic activity

5%
Used a computer to create original artworks or animation

5%
Painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture

4%
Wood crafts such as wood turning, carving or furniture making

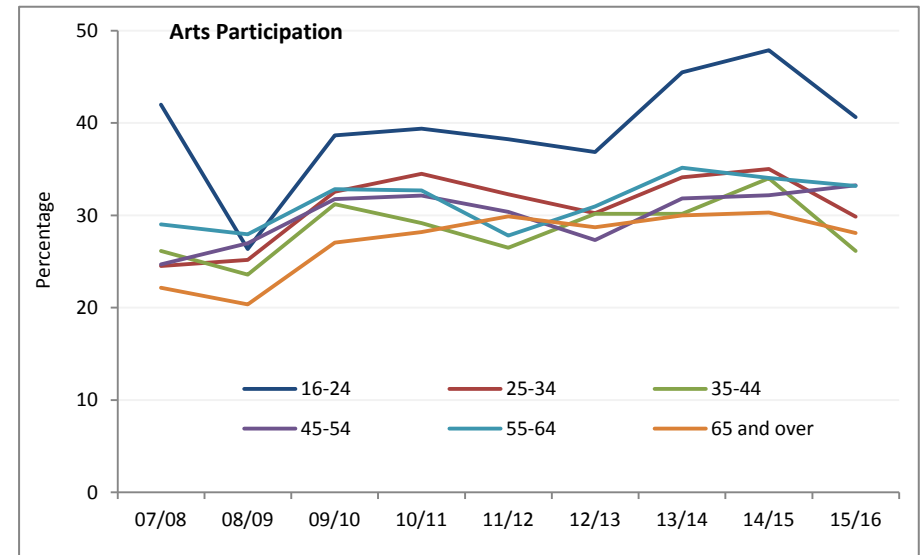
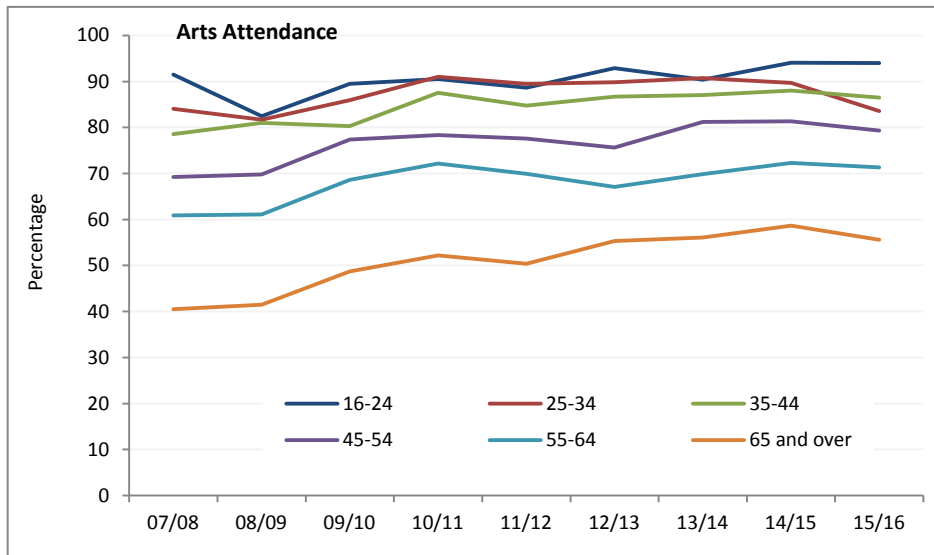
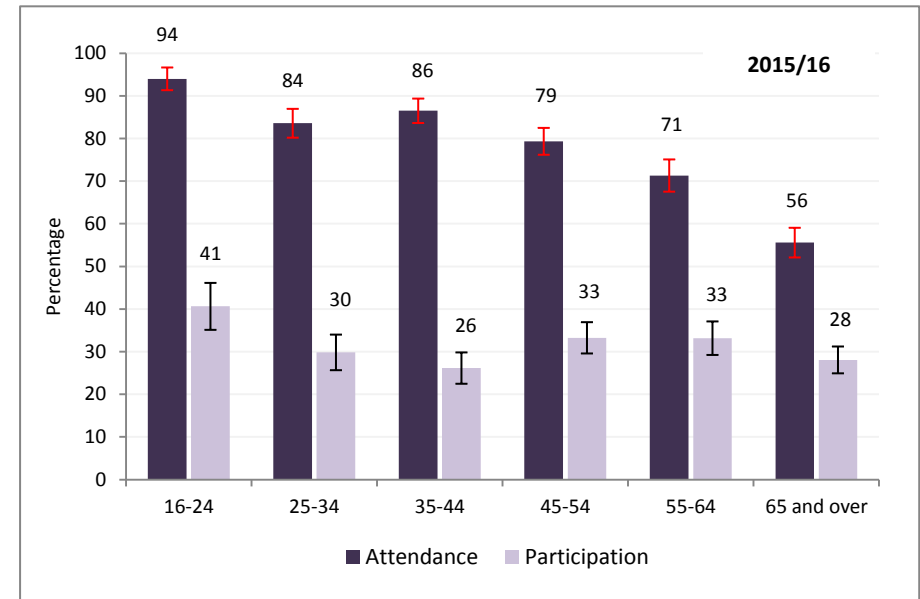
There were differences in the types of art activities males and females participated in within the last year. Females were more likely to have taken part in 'Textile crafts such as embroidery, crocheting or knitting' (16%), Painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture (8%) and 'Other crafts such as calligraphy, pottery or jewellery making' (4%) than males (1%, 5% and 1% respectively). On the other hand men were more likely to have taking part in arts activities such as 'Playing a musical instrument for own pleasure' (10%), photography as an artistic activity (6%) and 'Wood crafts such as wood turning, carving or furniture making' (4%) than women (6%, 3% and 1% respectively).

Looking at attendance at arts events, women were more likely to have attended arts events such as a play or drama (23%), theatre performance such as musical or pantomime (15%) and a craft exhibition (10%) than men (16%, 10% and 5% respectively). They were also more likely to have attended a 'Film at cinema or other venue' (60%; 55%) or a circus (7%; 4%). There were no art event types that men were more likely to have attended within the previous year than women.

Age and engagement with arts

Generally speaking, 'attendance at an art event within the previous year' decreases with age. This is especially true beyond the 35-44 age group with lower proportions of adults from successive age groups attending the an art event within the previous year since 2007/08 with adults aged 65 years and over consistently least likely to have done so. The longer term pattern among the younger age bands is less clear cut. In 2015/16 those aged 16-24 years old were more likely to have attended an arts event than any other age group but this has not always been the case across the trend period with the proportion of those aged 24-34 usually of similar proportion.

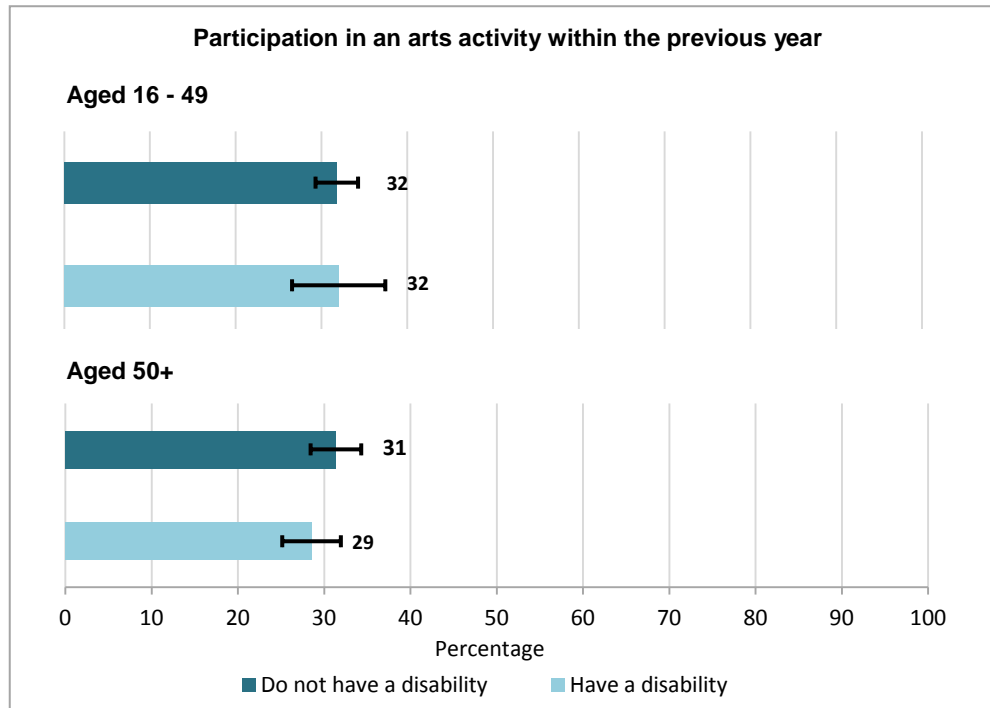
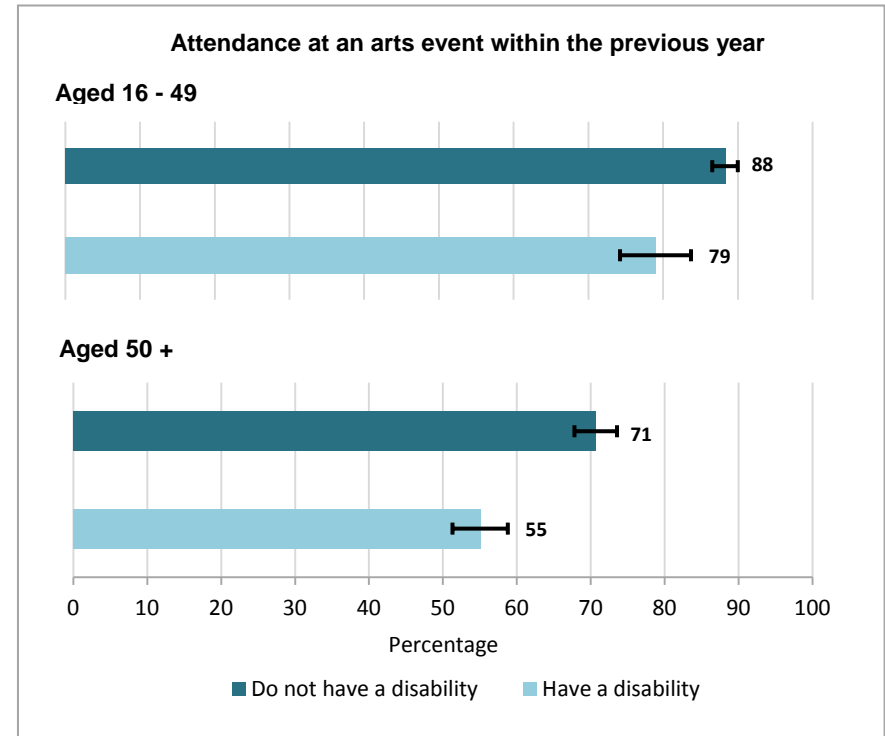
Arts participation within the previous year and age is more difficult to describe although it can be said that those aged 16-24 years old have been the age group most likely to have done so over the majority of the trend period. Looking at the 2015/16 figures and taking a broader approach to age, similar proportions of adults aged 16-44 years old and those aged 45 years and over had participated in an art activity within the previous year (both 31%).



Disability and engagement with arts

Adults who have a disability were less likely to engage with the arts within the previous year (69%) than those who do not have a disability (85%). Looking at the 'attendance at an arts event' element of the engagement statistic, adults who do not have a disability were more likely to attend an arts event (83%) than adults who have a disability (64%).

Disability and age are closely related and analysis was conducted for younger and older adults who have a disability. This showed that regardless of age, in broad terms, disability affects the likelihood of adults attending an arts event with younger adults, aged 16-49 years who have a disability less likely to have attended an arts event within the previous year (79%) than those adults in the same age group who do not have a disability (88%).



Considering the second element of arts engagement, similar proportions of adults who have a disability and those who do not have a disability participated in an arts activity within the previous year (30% and 32% respectively). Similarly when disability is considered with younger adults aged 16-49 years there was no difference found in the proportion participating in an arts activity within the previous year with those who have a disability and those who do not have a disability (both 32%). This was also the case with older adults, aged 50 years and over, with similar proportions of those who have a disability (29%) and those who do not have a disability (31%) having participated in an arts activity within the previous year. Overall, these findings suggest that having a disability *per se*, has a negative effect on overall attendance at an arts event figures but not on the overall proportion participating in an arts activity.

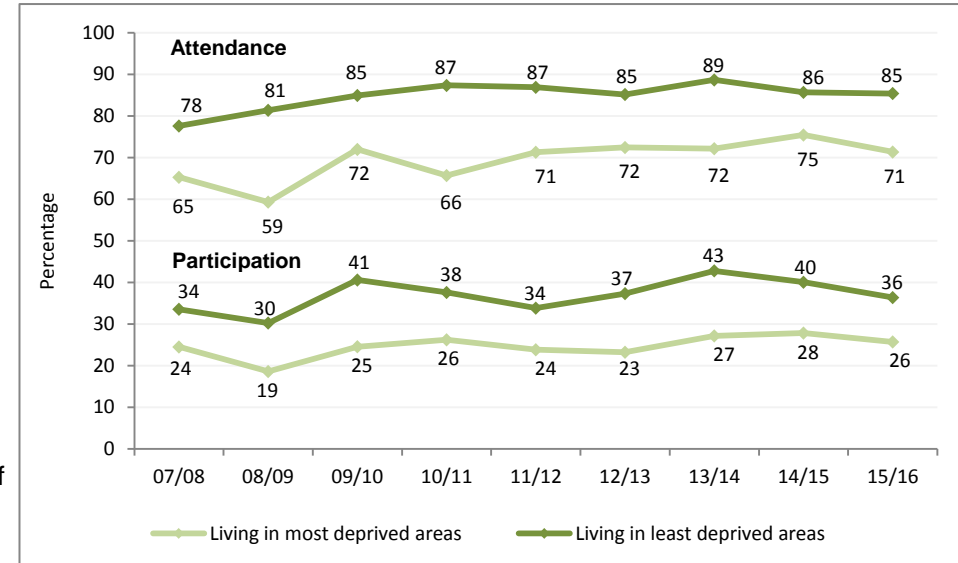


Deprivation and engagement with arts

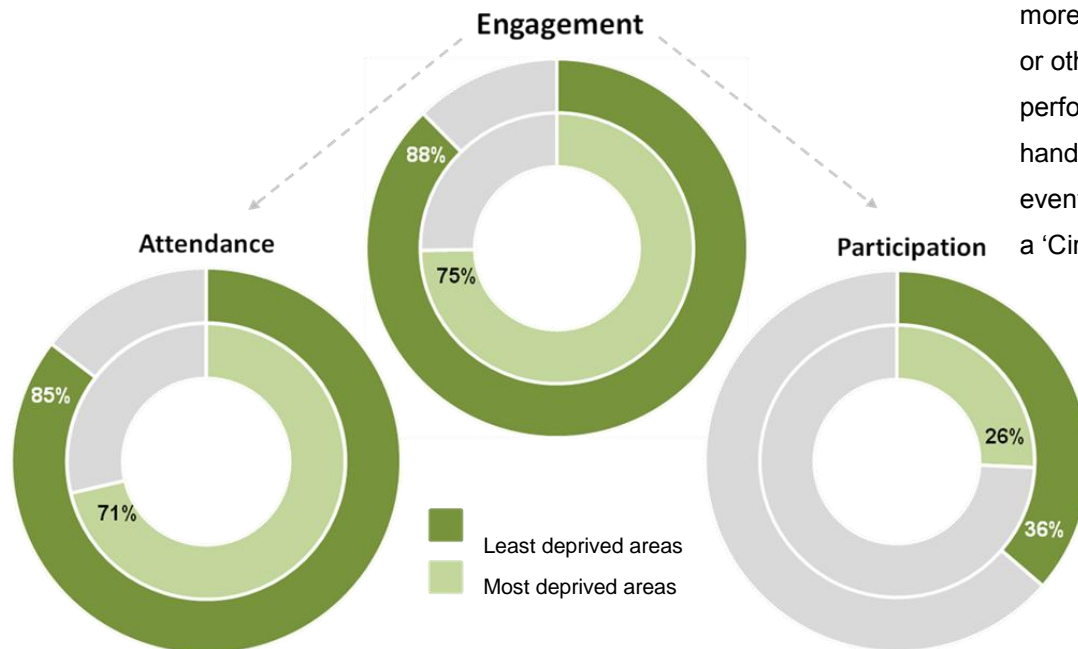
Adults living in the most deprived areas are consistently less likely than those living in the least deprived areas to engage with arts.

This has been the case for both participation and attendance engagement with the arts across the entire trend period. Furthermore, there has been no change in the differences between the two groups over the period.

According to the 2015/16 survey, three-quarters of adults living the most deprived areas (75%) had engaged with the arts in the last year compared to nearly nine in every ten (88%) of those living in the least deprived areas. A quarter of adults living in the most deprived areas had participated in an arts activity (26%), whereas over a third of adults living in the least deprived areas (36%) had done so. Looking at attendance at an arts event, just over seven in every ten of those living in the most deprived areas (71%) had done so compared to 85% of adults living in the least deprived areas.



Looking at the type of arts events attended, those living in the least deprived areas were more likely to attend 11 of the 20 types of arts events listed. These include 'Film at a cinema or other venue' (66% v 54%), a 'Play or drama' (24% v 15%), a 'Rock or music performance' (23% v 16%) and a 'Classical music performance' (7% v 1%). On the other hand, those living in the most deprived areas were more likely to have attended 3 of the 20 event types listed, namely, a 'Community festival' (17% v 10%), a 'Carnival' (10% v 2%) and a 'Circus' (8% v 4%).



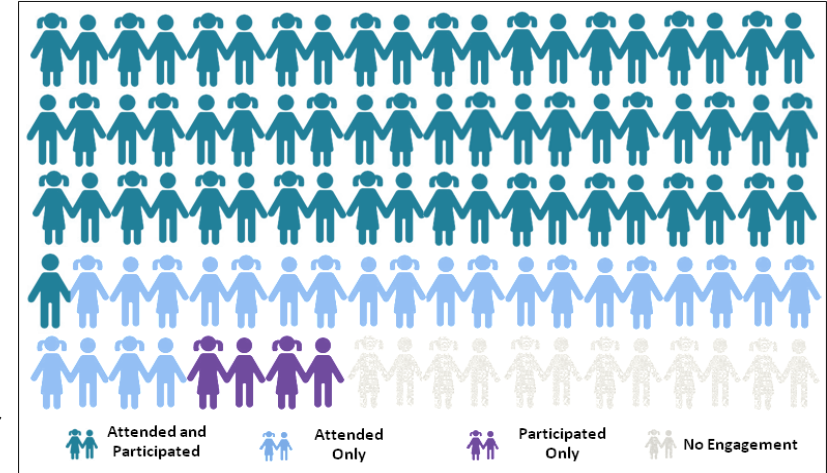
Considering participation in arts activities, those living in the least deprived areas were more likely to have participated in seven of the seventeen listed art activity types including 'Played a musical instrument for own pleasure' (11% v 5%) and 'Painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture' (9% v 5%). There were no arts activities listed that those adults living in the most deprived areas were more likely to have participated in although there was no difference found between the two groups with activities such as 'Textile crafts such as embroidery, crocheting or knitting' (both 8%) and 'Other dance (not for fitness)' (Most deprived: 4%; Least deprived: 5%).



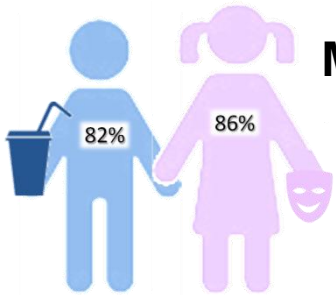
Children's engagement with arts outside of school and afterschool

For the first time in the Continuous Household Survey parents of children aged 4 to 15 years old were asked about their children's engagement with the arts outside of school and afterschool. According to parents, 88% of children had engaged with the arts outside of school

or afterschool, with girls more likely to have done so (91%) than boys (84%). Over three-fifths of children (61%) had attended an arts event outside of school and also participated in an arts activity either afterschool or outside of school within the year. Almost a quarter of children (23%) had attended an arts event outside of school but had not participated in an arts activity outside of school or afterschool within the previous year. Less than one in every twenty children (4%) had participated in an arts activity either outside of school or afterschool but had not attended an arts event outside of school. Approximately, one in every eight children (12%) did not engage with the arts outside of school or afterschool within the previous year.

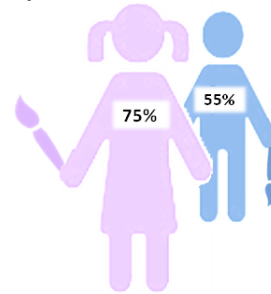


Attendance at arts events



More than four in every five children (84%) had attended an arts event outside of school within the previous year with similar proportions of boys (82%) and girls (86%) having done so. The most popular arts events attended were a 'Film at a cinema or other venue' (72%), a museum (32%) and a 'Pantomime or musical' (25%).

Girls were more likely to have attended some of the event types listed such as a 'Play or drama at a theatre or other venue' (19% v 9%), an 'Arts festival or Community festival' (17% v 11), a 'Rock or pop music performance' (13% v 5%) or an 'Irish dancing performance' (10% v 2%). There were no arts event types where boys were more likely to have attended within the previous year than girls.



Participation in arts activities

Looking at any arts participation outside of school or afterschool, overall girls were more likely to have participated (75%) than boys (55%).

This was the case for both aspects of this statistic with girls more likely to have participated in the arts both outside of school (Girls: 70%; Boys: 48%) and afterschool (Girls: 43%; Boys: 31%).

Almost two in every five girls (38%) had participated in an arts activity both outside of school and afterschool within the previous year with less than a quarter of boys (23%) having done so.

The most popular arts activity outside of school for both girls (38%) and boys (24%) was 'Painting, drawing, sculpture or printmaking in free time' followed by 'Danced not for fitness' for girls (32%) and 'Used a computer to create original artworks or animation' for boys (16%).

Considering afterschool arts activities, 'Danced (any kind, but not for fitness)' was the most popular among girls (19%). This was followed by 'Painting, drawing, sculpture or printmaking in free time' (14%), which was also the most popular activity amongst boys (11%) followed by 'Used a computer to create original artworks or animation' (8%).

Definitions and technical notes

Participation in the arts (Adults) – Arts activities included in the definition of arts participation.

- 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
- Used a computer to create original artworks or animation
- Textile crafts such as embroidery, crocheting or knitting
- Written any poetry
- 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 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 snaps)

Participation in the arts (Children) – Arts activities included in the definition of arts participation (both 'outside of school' and 'afterschool').

- Any sort of crafts such as textiles, wood, pottery or jewellery making
- Danced (any kind, but not for fitness)
- Painting, drawing, sculpture or printmaking in free time (not including school work or homework)
- Performed in or rehearsed for a play / drama / pantomime / musical / opera
- Photography or made films / videos as an artistic activity (not including family or holiday photos, films or videos)
- Played a musical instrument for own pleasure
- Sang (not karaoke) or played a musical instrument to an audience, including rehearsal for a performance
- Used a computer to create original artworks or animation
- Written any stories or poetry in free time (not including school work or homework)
- Written music in free time

Attendance at arts events (Adults) – Arts events included in the definition of arts attendance.

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

Attendance at arts events (Children) – Arts events included in the definition of arts attendance (outside of school).

- Any other live dance event
- Any type of event including art/ photography/ sculpture/ video/ electronic arts/ crafts
- Arts festival or Community festival
- Ballet
- Circus or carnival
- Classical or jazz music performance
- Film at a cinema or other venue
- Irish dancing performance
- Museum
- Opera
- Other live music performance or concert
- Pantomime or musical
- Play or drama at a theatre or other venue
- Poetry reading or storytelling/ anything to do with books/ writing
- Rock or pop music performance
- Street arts (such as art in parks, busking)
- Traditional or folk music performance

Engaged with the arts (Adults) – Either participated in an arts activity or attended an arts event

Engaged with the arts (Children) – Either participated in an arts activity (outside of school or afterschool) or attended an arts event outside of school.

Disability – The questions used to ascertain whether or not a person has a disability are harmonised with the definition of disability in the Equality Act 2010. This states that a disabled population is classified on the basis of having a long-lasting physical or mental health condition or illness which restricts day-to-day activities. The disabled population in this report are those who have answered yes to both the questions below:

- Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more?
- Does your condition or illness / do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day to day activities?

Dependants – A person is defined as having dependants if they have responsibility for either the care of a child, a person with a disability or an elderly person.

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 2010¹ 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.

Urban / rural – The data have also been analysed by whether respondents are living in SOAs that have been categorised as either urban or rural as set out in the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements report (2015)². This report classified each settlement in Northern Ireland into one of eight bands (A-H) and recommended that Government and other users should consider defining ‘urban’ and ‘rural’ areas in ways which are appropriate for different programmes and projects. In the absence of a programme-specific definition, Bands A-E can be defined as urban and Bands F-H as rural. This definition was applied in the analysis in this bulletin.

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

² [Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements 2015 Report](#)

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.