



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport

Taking Part, Focus On: Barriers to Participation

Statistical Release

March 2015



Introduction

This report

This report is one in a series of five “Taking Part, Focus On” reports, presenting findings on the ninth year of the Taking Part survey. Taking Part is a continuous face to face household survey of adults aged 16 and over in England and children aged 5 to 15 years old. The series expands on and complements the Statistical Release published on 3rd July 2014 that presented headline adult findings from the survey, covering April 2013 to March 2014. The “Focus On” series looks in more detail at specific measures, with each report covering one of the following areas:

- 1) Art forms
- 2) Free time activities
- 3) Barriers to participation
- 4) Digital engagement
- 5) Society

Forthcoming releases and events

The next adult release, to be published on Thursday 19th March, will present the quarter 3 estimates for year 10 (January 2014 – December 2014) for adults.

Future adult releases will follow a similar schedule, being released around the end of March, June, September and December.

If you would like further information on these releases or the Taking Part survey, please contact the Taking Part team on TakingPart@culture.gov.uk.

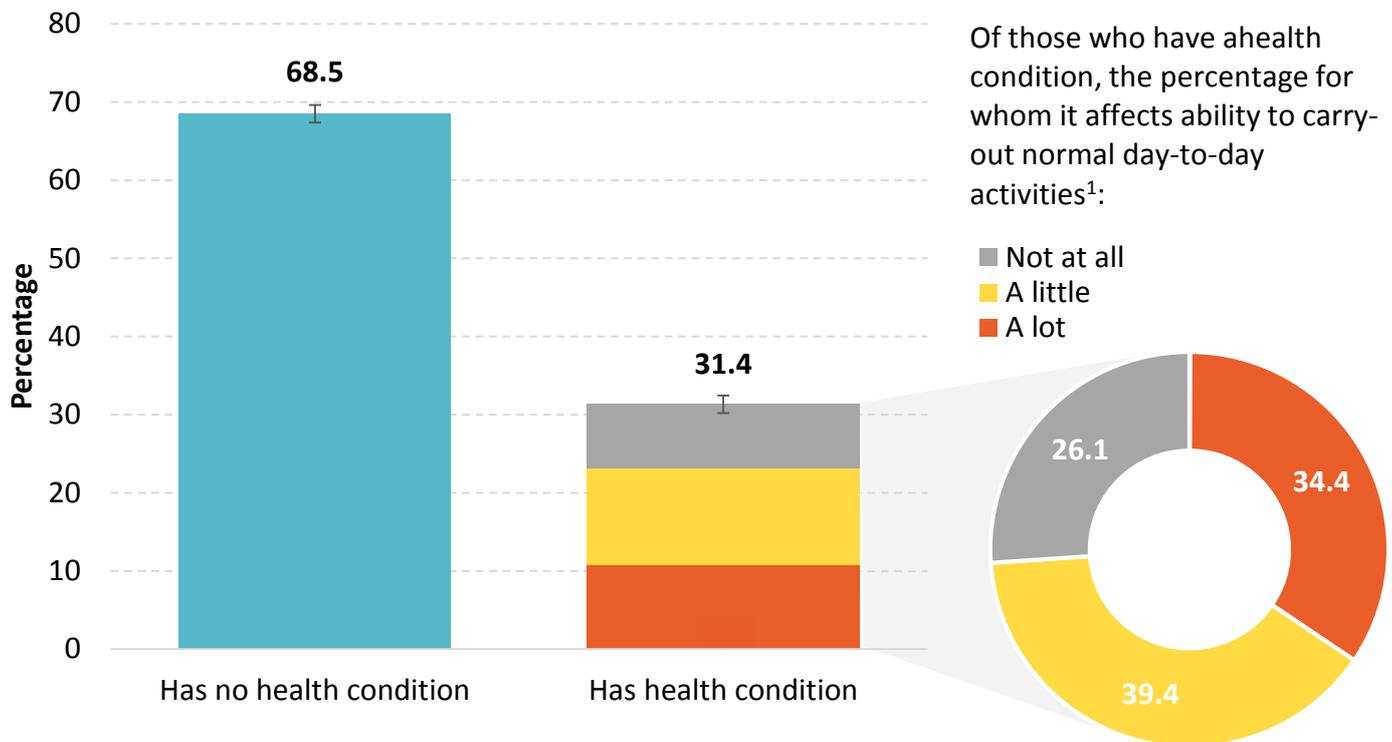
Health conditions

Respondents are asked if they have any mental or physical health condition lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more. Those who respond “Yes” are then subsequently asked if that health condition affects their ability to carry out day-to-day activities.

In the year to 2013/14, 31.4 per cent of adults said they had a physical or mental health condition or illnesses lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more and 68.5 per cent said they had no such health condition. Of those who have a health condition, 34.4 per cent said this limits their ability to carry out day to day activities a lot (see Figure 1).

How does this compare?
The Office of National Statistics census statistics show that in 2011 9.3% of all people in the UK a limited by a long term health condition or disability a lot, and 8.3% a little. These percentages include children as well as adults.

Figure 1: Health conditions for adults lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more, April 2013 to March 2014



Notes

(1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-3.5 and +/-5.9

What is a confidence interval?

A confidence interval provides a range in which there is a specific probability that the true value will lie within. For this survey, 95% confidence intervals are used which means, had the sampling been conducted 100 times, creating 100 confidence intervals, then 95 percent of these intervals would contain the true value.



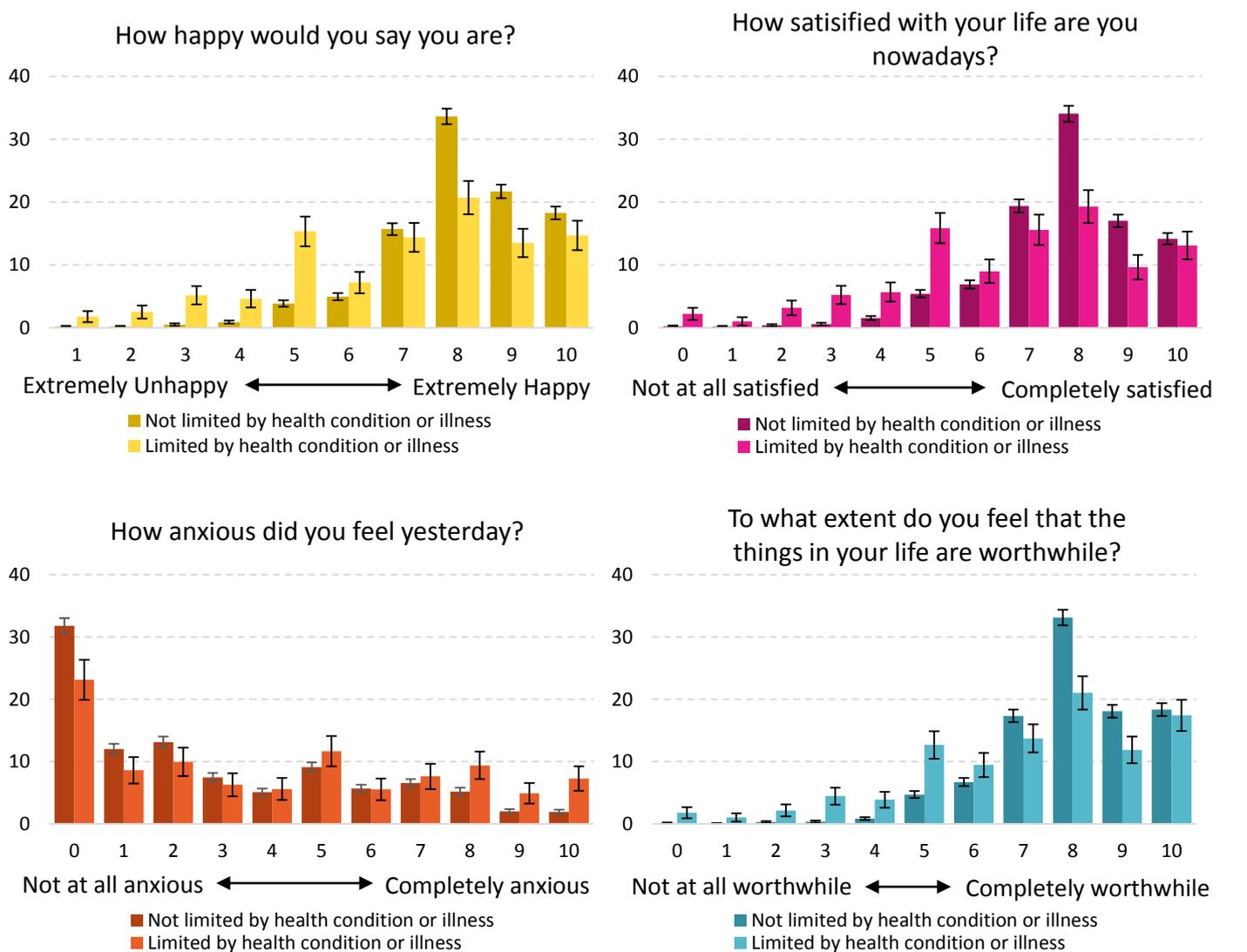
Wellbeing

The accompanying *A focus on...Society* statistical release details the wellbeing of all adults.

Between April 2013 and March 2014, 14.7 per cent of adults with a long term health condition considered themselves to be extremely happy, marking their happiness with a score of 10 out of 10, versus 18.3 per cent without. The difference between these two groups for those who gave themselves a score of 8 out of 10 for happiness is 12.9 percentage points.

Respondents are also asked how satisfied they were with their life, to what extent they felt things in their life are worthwhile and how anxious they felt the day prior to interview. Results are displayed in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Wellbeing for those with and without health conditions or long term illness, April 2013 to March 2014



Notes

(1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-0.1 and +/-3.2.

How does this compare?

A 2013 [ONS report](#) shows that self-assessed health is particularly strongly related to wellbeing.

Looking at those with a limiting illness or health condition compared to those who do not, the distributions of wellbeing responses differ significantly.

As with happiness, the difference is largest between the two groups for those scoring themselves 8 out of 10 for life satisfaction, similarly so for how worthwhile they felt life was. The differences are 14.8 and 12.1 percentage points respectively. The largest difference in anxiety was seen for those scoring themselves 10, with 7.3 per cent of those with a long term health problem reporting they were ‘completely anxious’ versus 1.7 per cent for those who did not.

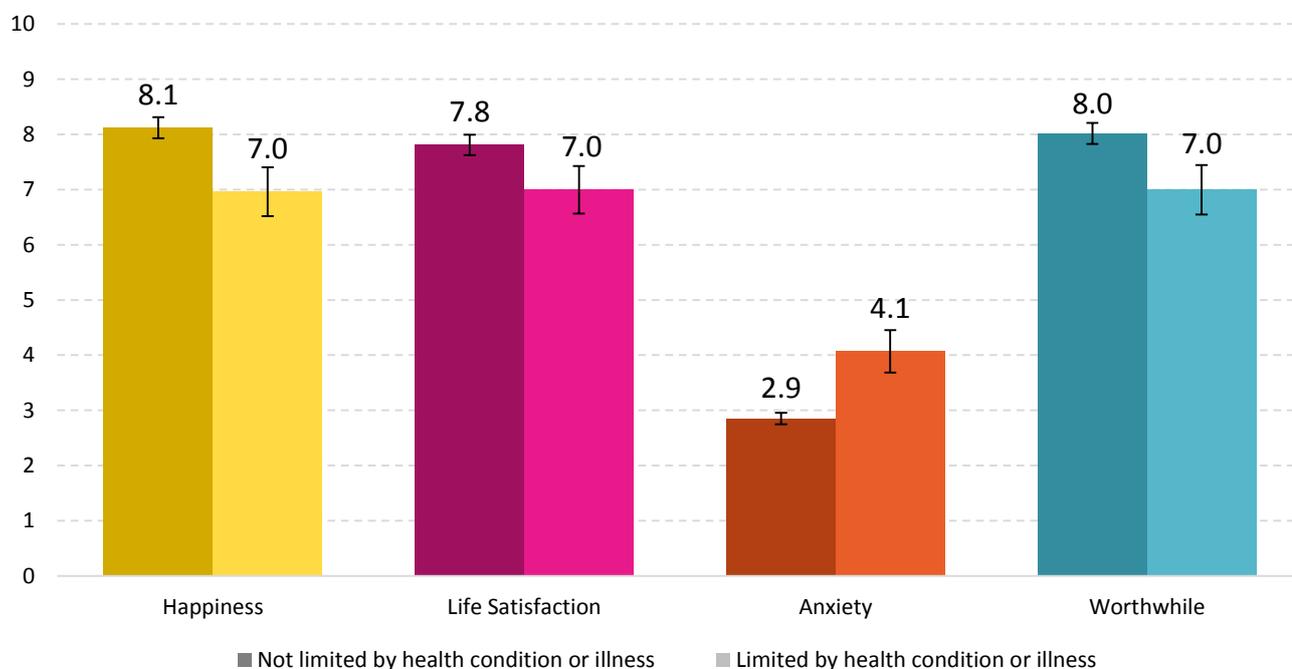
Average wellbeing scores for both groups are shown for each wellbeing measure in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Mean wellbeing scores for those with and without a limiting illness or health condition lasting or expected to last 12 months or more, April 2013 to March 2014

How does this compare?

A recent Office for National Statistics [report](#) calculated mean scores for well-being in 2013/14 as follows:

- 7.4 out of 10 for happiness yesterday,
- 7.5 out of 10 for life satisfaction,
- 2.9 out of 10 for anxiety yesterday,
- 7.7 out of 10 for feeling that what one does in life is worthwhile.



Notes

(1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-0.1 and +/-0.4.

For more information, including figures for all scores for both groups, please see the [accompanying tables](#).



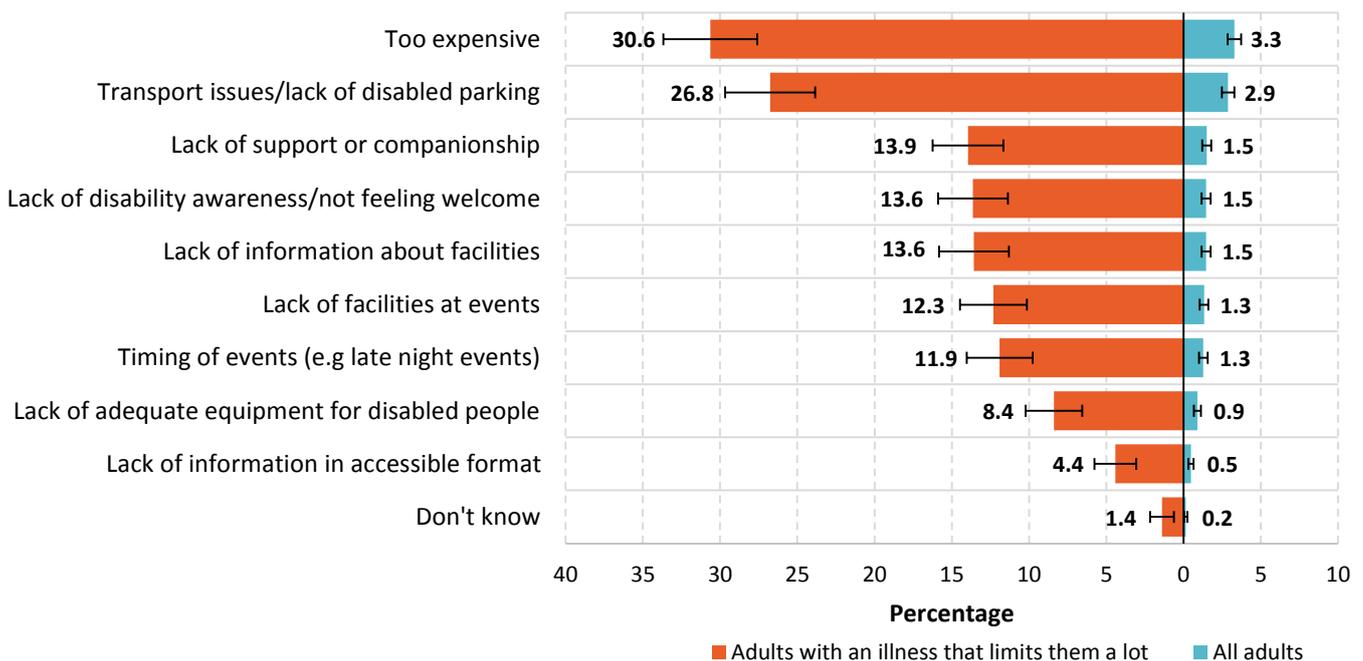
Factors affecting participation

Those who report that their illness or health condition limits them a lot are asked what factors limit their ability to participate in or attend cultural or sporting activities. They are able to provide multiple responses. This question is not asked of those who do not report a limiting illness or health condition.

30.6 per cent of adults with a limiting illness or health condition (3.3% as a percentage of all adults) reported that activities were too expensive, while 26.8 per cent of those with a limiting illness or health condition (2.9% as a percentage of all adults) said that transport issues or a lack of disabled parking limited their participation.

All factors are shown in Figure 4. Each bar in this figure represents the same group of people who cited that factor, expressed both as a percentage of those who reported a limiting illness or health condition (red), and as a percentage of all adults (blue).

Figure 4: Factors affecting participation in or attendance of culture or sporting activities for those whose illness or health condition limits them a lot, April 2013 to March 2014



Notes (1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-0.1 and +/-3.0.

Annex A: Further details

1. The Taking Part survey is commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and its partner Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs). For 2011 to 2015 these are Arts Council England, English Heritage and Sport England.
2. Taking Part is a National Statistic and as such has been produced to the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. National Statistics undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs and are produced free from any political interference. See the [Statistics Authority code of practice](#) for more information.

The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed. See the [UK Statistics Authority assessment](#) for more information.

3. The latest results presented here are based on interviews issued between April 2013 and March 2014. The total sample size for this period is 10,355.
4. Statistical significance tests have been run at the 95% level. A significant increase at the 95% level means that there is less than 5% (1 in 20) chance that the difference observed within the sampled respondents was not also observed in the English population as a whole.
5. For more information see the [Taking Part Survey](#) webpages, including previous publications. Versions of the [questionnaires](#) from all years of the survey are also available.
6. The fieldwork for the survey is being conducted by TNS-BMRB. For more information, see <http://www.tns-bmr.co.uk>.
7. The series of reports has been produced by Jodie Hargreaves, Madeleine May and Niall Goulding (DCMS). Acknowledgement goes to colleagues within the DCMS, partner ALBs and TNS-BMRB for their assistance with the production and quality assurance of this release.
8. The responsible statistician for this release is Jodie Hargreaves. For enquiries on this release, please contact Jodie on 0207 211 6327.
9. For general enquiries telephone: 0207 211 6200 or email enquiries@culture.gov.uk.





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