



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport



Taking Part 2013/14, Focus on: Society



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.

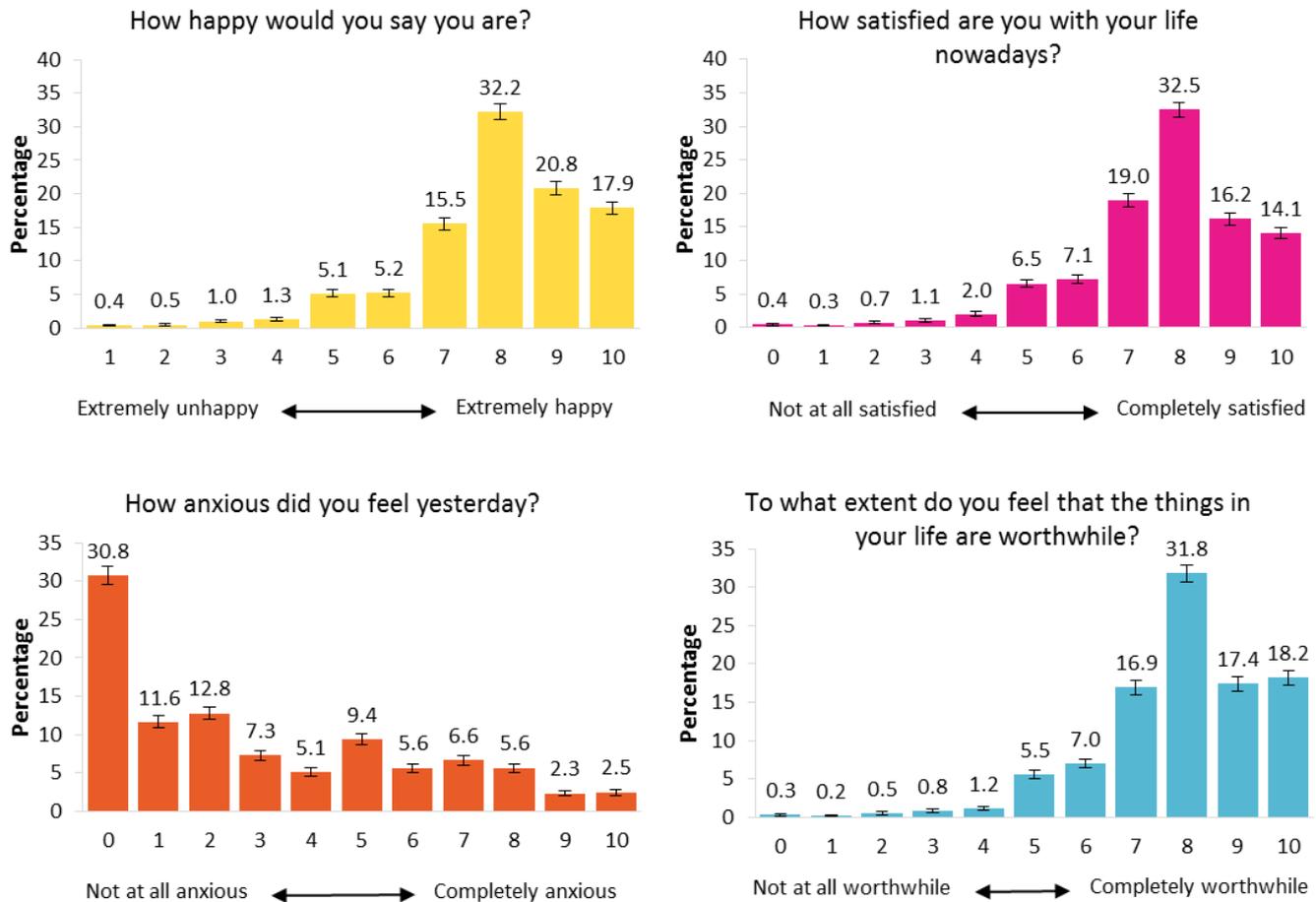
Future adult releases will follow a similar schedule, being released around the end of March, June, September and December.

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.

Well-being

Between April 2013 and March 2014, 17.9 per cent of adults considered themselves to be extremely happy, marking their happiness with a score of 10 out of 10. Almost a third of adults (32.2%) gave themselves a score of 8 out of 10 for happiness. Respondents were 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 1.

Figure 1: Well-being scores, April 2013 to March 2014



Notes

(1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-0.1 and +/-1.1.

Mean well-being scores, out of 10, for 2013/14 were: 8.0 for happiness, 7.7 for satisfaction, 3.0 for anxiety and 7.9 for worth. In 2005/06, 37.8 per cent of adults selected between 1 and 7 out of 10 to indicate how happy they felt (where 1 is extremely unhappy and 10 is extremely happy). However in 2013/14 this had significantly decreased to 29.0 per cent. By contrast, there have been significant increases in the proportion of adults marking their happiness as 8, 9 or 10 out of 10 (by 2.8, 4.3 and 2.1 percentage points respectively).

How does this compare?

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

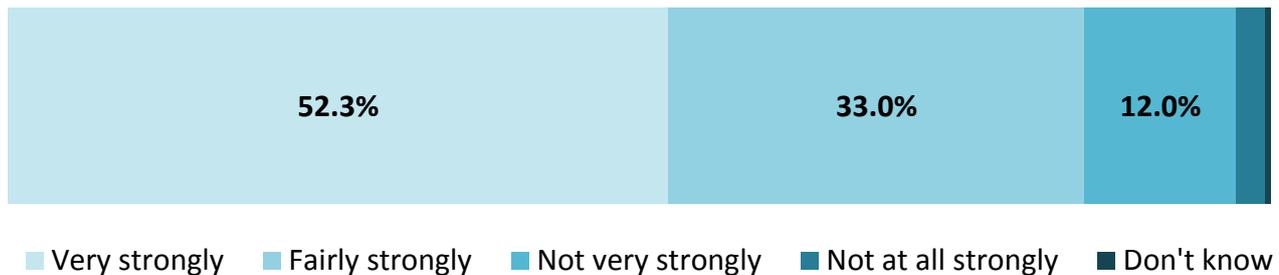
- 7.4 out of 10 for happiness yesterday,
- 7.5 out of 10 for life satisfaction,
- 2.9 out of 10 for anxiety yesterday,
- 7.7 out of 10 for feeling that what one does in life is worthwhile.



National identity

In 2013/14, over half of adults (52.3%) felt a very strong sense of belonging to Britain, while a third felt a fairly strong sense of belonging (Figure 2). The proportion of adults who felt a fairly strong sense of belonging to Britain has significantly decreased from 35.2% in 2011/12, when this question was first asked, while the proportion that felt their sense of belonging was not very strong significantly increased from 10.5% in 2011/12 to 12.0% in 2013/14.

Figure 2: Strength of belonging to Britain, 2013/14



What makes you most proud of Britain?

When asked what makes them most proud of Britain, 58.7 per cent of adults cited the British countryside and scenery, a significant decrease from 61.3 per cent in 2011/12 (when the question was first asked). Over this period, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of people who felt that British sporting achievements make them most proud of Britain (from 11.2% to 20.1%) and in the proportion of people who cited the British monarchy as the main reason for pride in Britain (from 19.4% to 22.7%).

The British countryside and scenery was the highest ranked reason for being proud of Britain amongst all age groups (Figure 3) and for both males and females. British sporting achievements feature in the top five reasons for being proud of Britain for 16-24 years olds (29.9%) and 25-44 year olds (20.1%).

What does 'significant' mean?

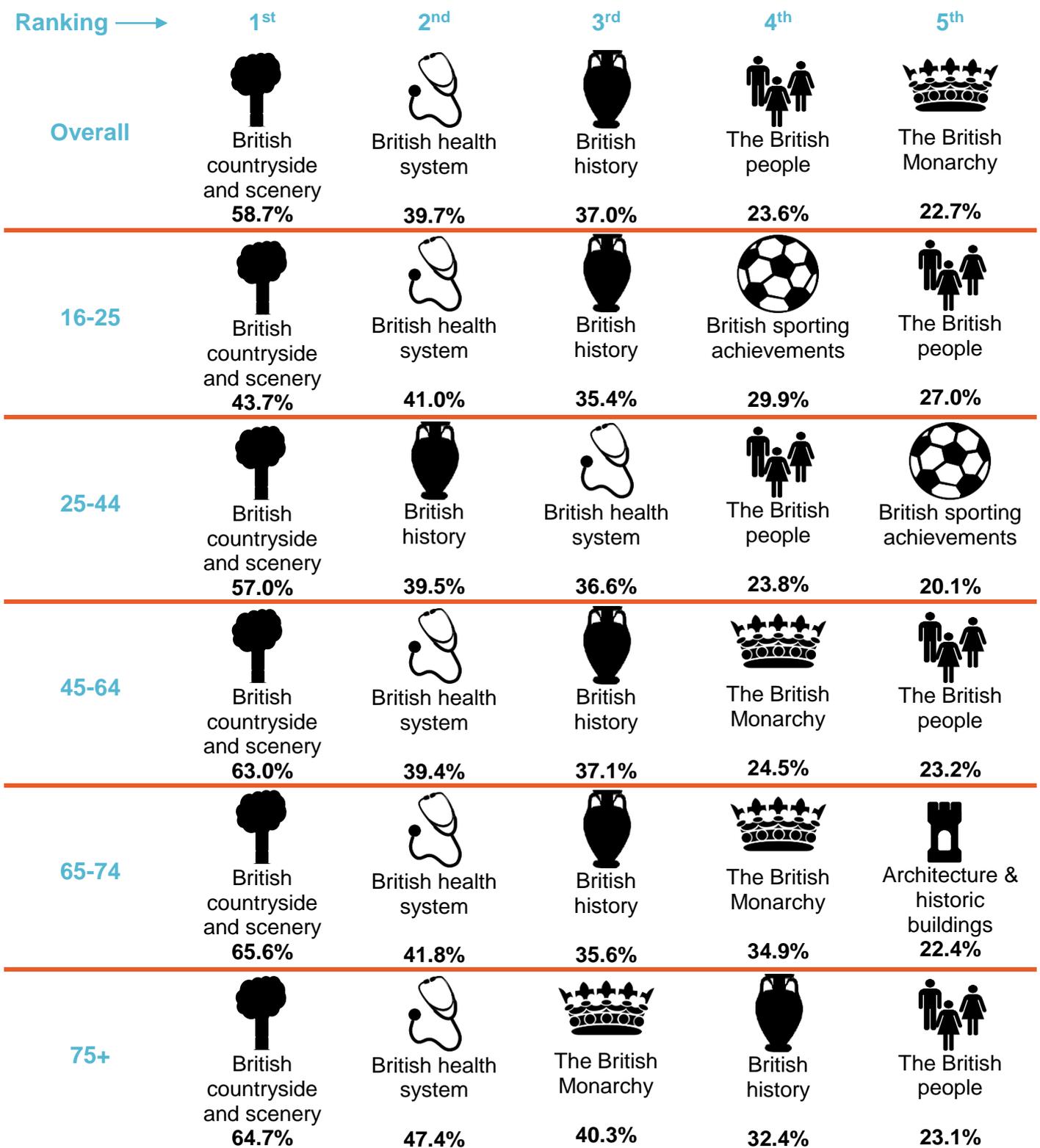
A significant increase or decrease at the 95% level means that there is less than a 5% chance (1 in 20) that the difference observed within the sampled respondents is not representative of the English population as a whole.

The two reasons ranked highest by members of the white ethnic group were the British countryside and scenery (61.7%) and British history (39.0%) while members of the black and minority ethnic group were most proud of the British health system (46.4%) and British education and science (39.9%).

How are these data collected?

Respondents are asked to look at a list of factors and select up to three that they consider to make them most proud of Britain. Respondents also have the opportunity to select 'none'.

Figure 3: What makes us proud of Britain, 2013/14



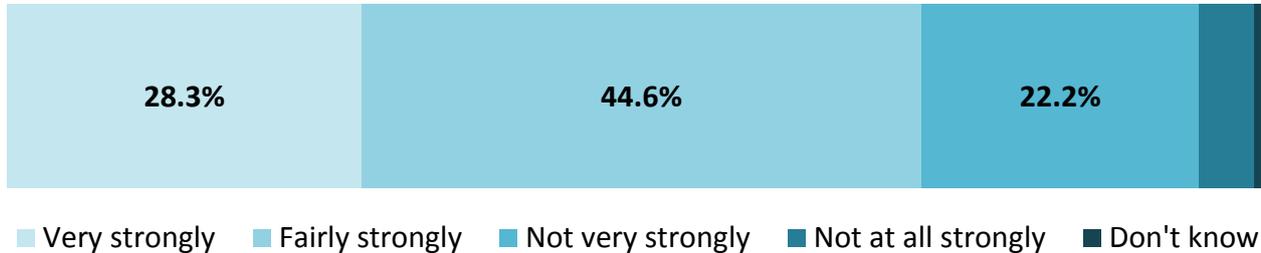
For more information, including rankings by other characteristics see the [accompanying tables](#).



Local community

Between April 2013 and March 2014, 44.6 per cent of adults felt a fairly strong sense of belonging to their local area, while 28.3 per cent felt a strong sense of belonging (Figure 4). Both proportions are at a similar level to 2011/12, the first year these data were collected.

Figure 4: Strength of belonging to local community, 2013/14



What is most important to your local area?

More than three out of five adults (62.5%) felt that clean streets were most important to their local area, followed by green spaces (49.0%). Since 2011/12, when these data were first collected, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of adults citing shopping facilities (from 26.4% to 28.7%) and traffic management (from 25.0% to 27.4%) as most important. In 2013/14, 5.6 per cent of adults identified historic places, areas or buildings as most important to their local area, a slight decrease from 8.1 per cent in 2011/12.

Clean streets was considered the most important factor to local areas by all age groups. Education facilities featured in the top five for 16-24 year olds, 25-44 year olds and 45-64 year olds, while traffic management was considered important by the three eldest age groups (44-64, 65-74 and 75+).

How are these data collected?

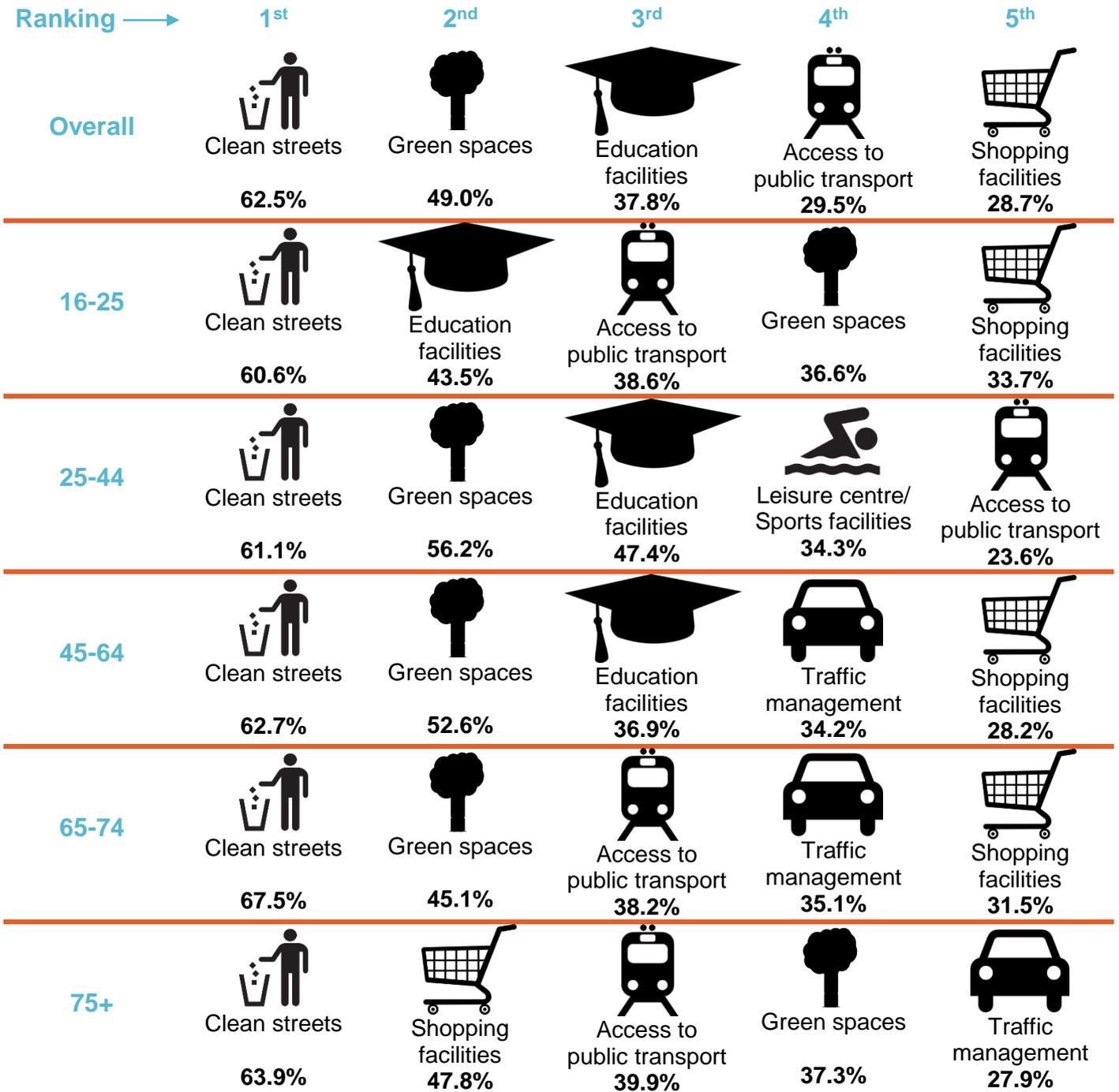
Respondents are asked to look at a list of factors and select up to three that they consider to be most important to their local area. Respondents also have the opportunity to select 'none'.

Males and females each ranked clean streets, green spaces and education facilities as the three most important factors to their local area. For males, traffic management (32.6%) and leisure centres or sporting facilities (31.1%) were ranked in the top 5, while for women, access to public transport (32.7%) and shopping facilities (30.5%) were ranked in the top 5.

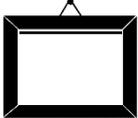
People from different backgrounds

Over half of adults (55.0%) tended to agree with the statement 'The local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on together', with an additional 21.9 per cent definitely agreeing. Responses to this question remained at a similar level to 2011/12, when the question was first asked, with the exception of a significant decrease in the proportion of adults who definitely disagreed with the statement (from 3.9% to 3.0%).

Figure 5: What is most important to your local area, 2013/14



For more information, including rankings by other characteristics see the [accompanying tables](#).

 35.4 per cent of adults agreed with the statement 'The arts make a difference to the area where I live', a significant increase from 23.9 per cent in 2010/11 (when this question was first asked). An additional 12.7 per cent strongly agreed, a significant decrease on 2010/11 (from 15.3%).

 The majority of adults agreed (51.1%) or strongly agreed (15.4%) that the heritage of their local area is well looked after. More than 9 out of 10 adults either agreed (41.7%) or strongly agreed (51.6%) with the statement 'It is important to me that heritage buildings and places are well looked after'.

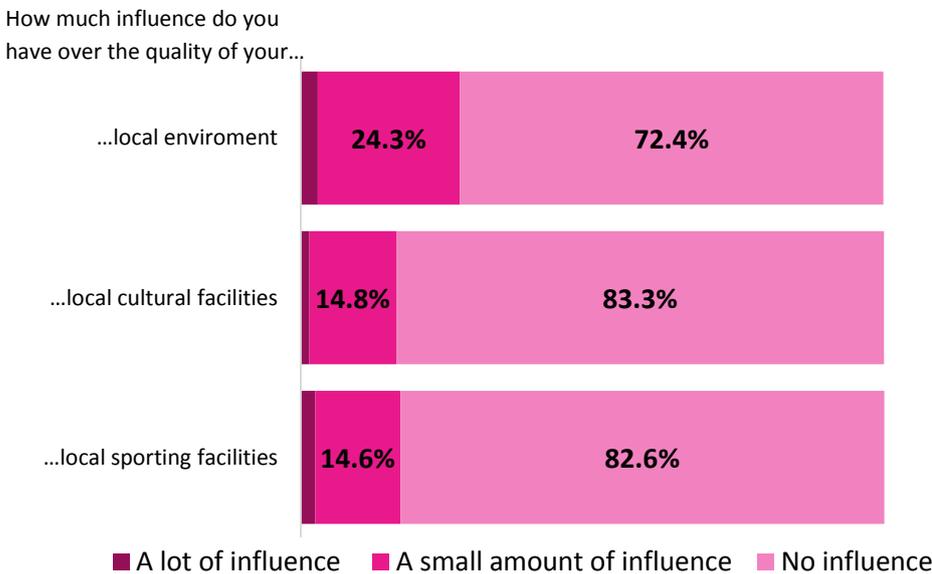


Civic participation

Local influence

In 2013/14, over a quarter of adults felt that they had a lot (2.9%) or a small amount of influence (24.3%) over the quality of their local environment, similar proportions to 2010/11, when this question was first asked (Figure 6). Since 2010/11, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of adults who felt that they had a small amount of influence over the quality and variety of local cultural facilities (from 12.1% to 14.8%), while there has been a significant decrease in those that felt that had no influence over local cultural facilities (85.0% to 83.3%). The proportion of adults who felt that they had a lot of influence (2.5%) or a small amount of influence (14.6%) over local sporting facilities has significantly increased since 2010/11 (by 1.0 and 2.5 percentage points respectively).

Figure 6: Influence over local area, April 2013 to March 2014

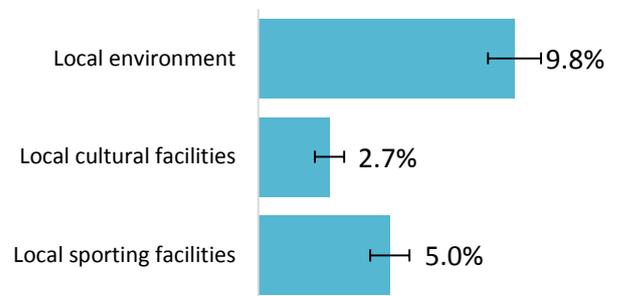


What is a confidence interval?

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.

Between April 2013 and March 2014, 9.8 per cent of adults had been asked by any organisation for their views on their local environment in the last 12 months, and 2.7 per cent had been asked for their views on local cultural facilities, both a significant decrease since 2010/11 when the proportion was 13.0 per cent and 3.5 per cent respectively. In addition, 5.0 per cent of adults had been asked what they thought about local sporting facilities, a similar level to 2010/11 (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Proportion of adults that were asked what they think about local facilities, April 2013 to March 2014



Notes

(1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-0.6 and +/-1.0.

Acting for change

Table 1 shows the actions taken by adults in 2013/14 to try to get something done about sporting and cultural facilities in their local area, alongside actions they would take if they wanted to get something done about these facilities. Since 2010/11, there has been a significant decrease in the proportion of adults who had joined a local group or attended a neighbourhood forum (by 1.0 percentage points). By contrast, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of adults who said that they would contact a local councillor or MP (by 2.4 percentage points) and help organise a petition (by 0.9 percentage points) if they wanted to get something done about local facilities.

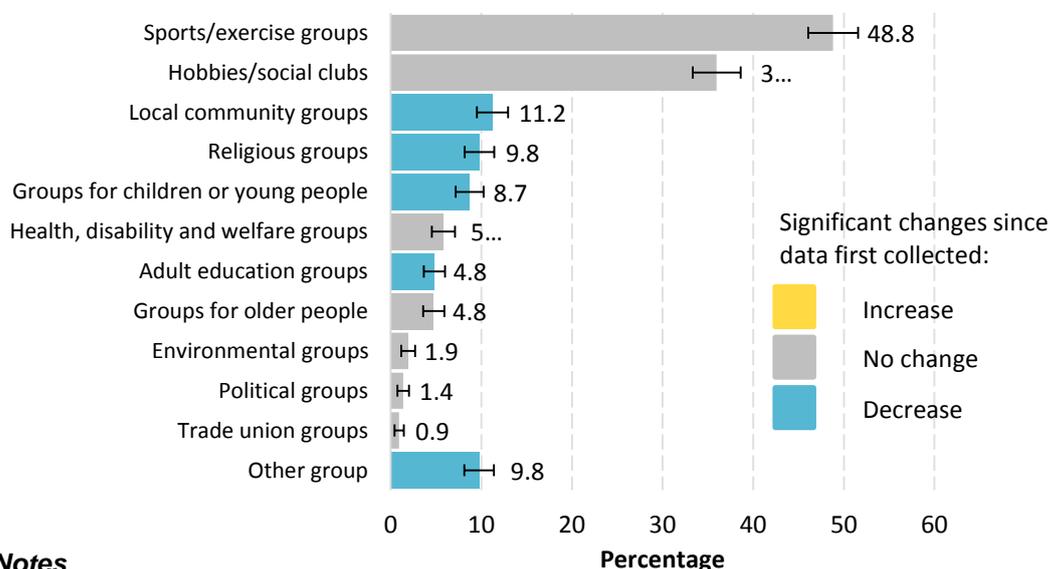
Table 1: Actions taken or would take to change local sporting or cultural facilities, 2013/14

	Have taken this action	Would take this action
Contact the council	11.9%	53.2%
Contact a local councillor or MP	5.3%	19.1%
Join a local group or attend a neighbourhood forum	3.0%	5.9%
Attend a protest meeting or join a campaign group	1.8%	2.1%
Help organise a petition	1.7%	2.0%
Contact a local radio station, TV station or newspaper	1.3%	2.2%
Talk to or write to a sporting or cultural facility	1.2%	6.6%

Participation in groups

In 2013/14, 38.8 per cent of adults had been involved in groups, clubs or organisations in the 12 months prior to interview, a significant decrease from 45.7 percent in 2010/11. Of those who had taken part in a group, club or organisation, almost half (48.8%) had been involved in a sports or exercise group, followed by 36.0 per cent who had participated in a hobby or social club. Since 2010/11 there has been a significant decrease in the proportion of adults who had been involved in religious groups (by 4.3 percentage points) and groups for children or young people (by 3.8 percentage points), amongst others (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Types of groups participated in, April 2013 to March 2014



Notes

(1) Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-0.5 and +/-2.7.



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 Madeleine May. For enquiries on this release, please contact Madeleine on 0207 211 2281.
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