



The Community Life Survey is an annual survey commissioned by Cabinet Office to provide Official Statistics on issues that are key to encouraging social action and empowering communities, including volunteering, giving and community engagement. Headline findings published today show:

Volunteering and charitable giving

- In 2014-15, 69% of people had volunteered at least once in the last 12 months, a significant decrease compared to 2013-14 (74%). This is driven by a significant decrease in informal volunteering (59% compared to 64%). The proportion of people formally volunteering has remained similar compared to 2013-14 (42% and 41% respectively).
- Levels of participation in informal (34%), formal (27%) and overall volunteering (47%) at least once a month have remained similar compared to 2013-14 and 2012-13.
- In 2014-15, 8% of people participated in employer volunteering, no change from 2013-14, but a significant increase compared to 2012-13 (6%).
- In 2014-15, the amount given to charity in the four weeks prior to interview (£22) was not significantly different to 2013-14 (£21), but a significant increase compared to 2005 (£19), 2007-08 (£20), 2010-11 (£20) and 2012-13 (£19) when adjusted for inflation.

Neighbourhood

- Over three quarters (79%) of people chatted to their neighbours at least once a month, a significant increase compared to 2013-14 (75%).
- The proportion of people who were 'very satisfied' with their local area as a place to live (43%) was unchanged from 2013-14, but significantly higher compared to all years from 2008-09 to 2012-13.
- Just under a third (32%) of people had a very strong sense of belonging to their neighbourhood, significantly higher than in 2013-14 (28%), but significantly lower than in 2008-09 to 2012-13.

Civic engagement

- There was a significant increase in the proportion of people taking part in civic participation at least once a month (5%) compared to 2013-14 (3%), but no significant change from 2012-13 (4%).
- The proportion of people who would like to be more involved in the decisions made by their local council (43%) was not significantly different from 2013-14 (44%), but almost a quarter (23%) said that it would depend on the issue, a significant increase compared to all survey years since 2007-08.

Notes to Editors

- *The Survey is representative of adults (aged 16+) in England. This third release is based on 2,022 interviews carried out in 2014-15 by TNS-BMRB.*
- *The Survey is designed to be comparable with key measures on the previous Citizenship Survey so that trends can be tracked over time. Where applicable, data from Community Life is compared with data from the Citizenship Survey.*
- *The full statistical release, Excel tables and survey outputs can be found at:*
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/community-life-survey>
- *Press contact – 0207 276 2270*
- *Statistical contact – communitylife@cabinetoffice.gov.uk*