



Taking Part focus on: Diversity Trends, 2005/06 to 2015/16

There are differences in cultural engagement between different demographic groups, and between the regions of England. This report explores how these have changed between 2005/06 and 2015/16.



Engagement with the arts is higher for adults in the upper socio-economic group and for those with no disability. Arts engagement is significantly lower for the Asian ethnic group than for the White and Black ethnic groups. These differences have persisted over the period 2005/06 to 2015/16, but there has been a slight narrowing of the engagement gap for socio-economic group and disability status.



Between 2005/06 and 2015/16, there were significant increases in heritage engagement across almost all demographic groups. Engagement levels are higher for the White ethnic group, the upper socio-economic group and for those with no long-standing illness or disability.



There have been significant increases in engagement with museums and galleries for all demographic groups and in all regions over the period 2005/06 to 2015/16. Engagement levels are higher for the upper socio-economic group and for adults with no long-standing illness or disability.



Public library use has decreased for all demographic groups and in all regions over the period 2005/06 to 2015/16. This decline has been greatest for the White ethnic group, the upper socio-economic group, and adults with no disability. Public library use is higher for the black and minority ethnic group and the upper socio-economic group, but by 2015/16, rates had converged such that there was no difference in engagement by disability status.

Taking Part is a household survey in England and measures engagement with the cultural sectors. The data are widely used by policy officials, practitioners, academics and charities.

This report presents trends for adults in cultural engagement over the period 2005/06 to 2015/16, focusing on differences by ethnicity, socio-economic group, disability status and region.

The data used have been collected continuously between April 2005 and March 2016.

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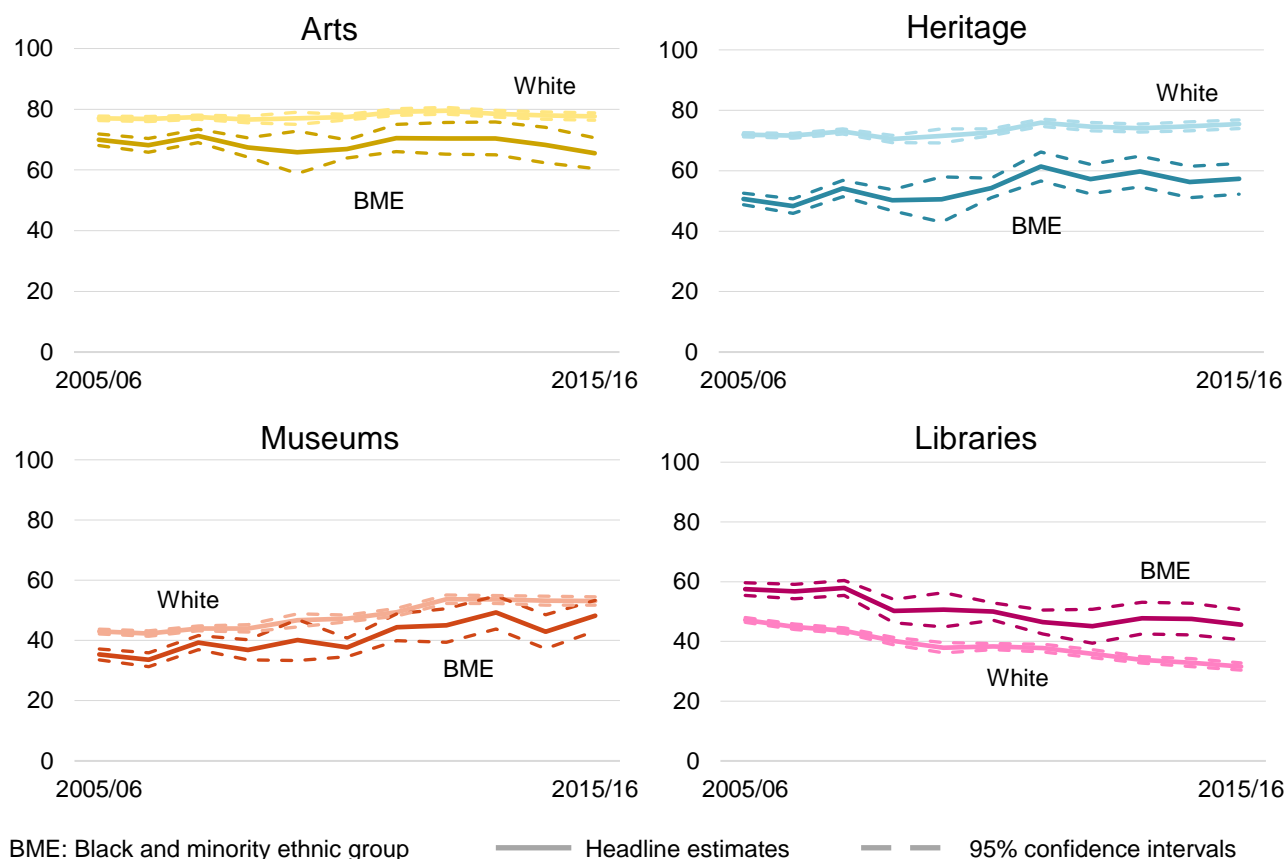
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Chapter 1: Ethnicity


Figure 1.1: Proportion of adults who engaged in culture in the last 12 months, by ethnic group, 2005/06 to 2015/16




Engagement with the arts and heritage is consistently higher for the white ethnic group, whereas public library use is higher for the black and minority ethnic group. In 2015/16, there was no significant difference in engagement by ethnicity for museums and galleries¹.

 Engagement with the arts has remained fairly stable for both the white, and the black and minority ethnic group, over the period 2005/06 to 2015/16.

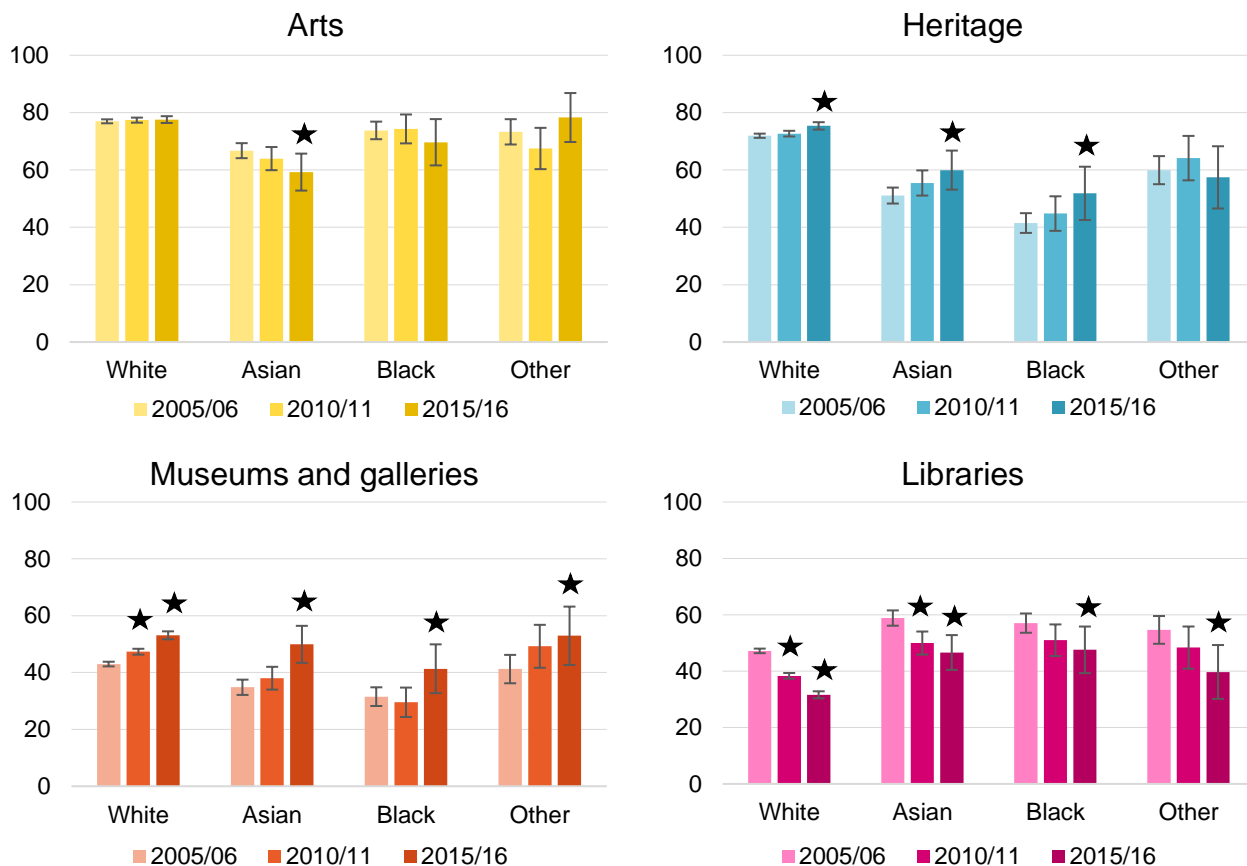
 Over the last 10 years, there has been an increase in engagement with heritage for both the white, and black and minority ethnic groups. The gap in engagement has narrowed slightly, from 21.3 percentage points in 2005/06, to 18.1 percentage points in 2015/16.

 For both the white, and black and minority ethnic groups, engagement with museums and galleries has increased over the period 2005/06 to 2015/16.

 For both ethnic groups, public library use has decreased over the period 2005/06 to 2015/16. The decrease has been greatest for the white ethnic group, at 15.6 percentage points, compared with a decrease of 11.9 percentage points for the black and minority ethnic group.

¹ The sample size for the Taking Part survey was smaller in 2015/16 than 2005/06, which means that the confidence intervals are wider. For the black and minority ethnic group, the 95% confidence interval for museums and galleries was +/- 1.8 in 2005/06 and +/- 5.1 in 2015/16. This means that a greater difference in the headline estimates for the white, and black and minority ethnic groups is required for the difference to be considered significant.

Figure 1.2: Proportion of adults who engaged in culture in the last 12 months, by ethnic group, 2005/06, 2010/11 and 2015/16



★ indicates that the engagement level is significantly different from 2005/06

The charts in figure 1.2 show a more detailed ethnicity breakdown for cultural engagement in 2005/06, 2010/11 and 2015/16.



Arts engagement has decreased significantly for the Asian ethnic group, from 66.7% in 2005/06 to 59.3% in 2015/16. Across all three time periods, arts engagement has been significantly lower for the Asian ethnic group than for the White and Black ethnic groups.



Engagement with heritage has increased significantly for the White, Asian and Black ethnic groups over the period 2005/06 to 2015/16. Across all three time periods, engagement with heritage has been significantly higher for the White ethnic group than for the Black, Asian and Other ethnic groups.



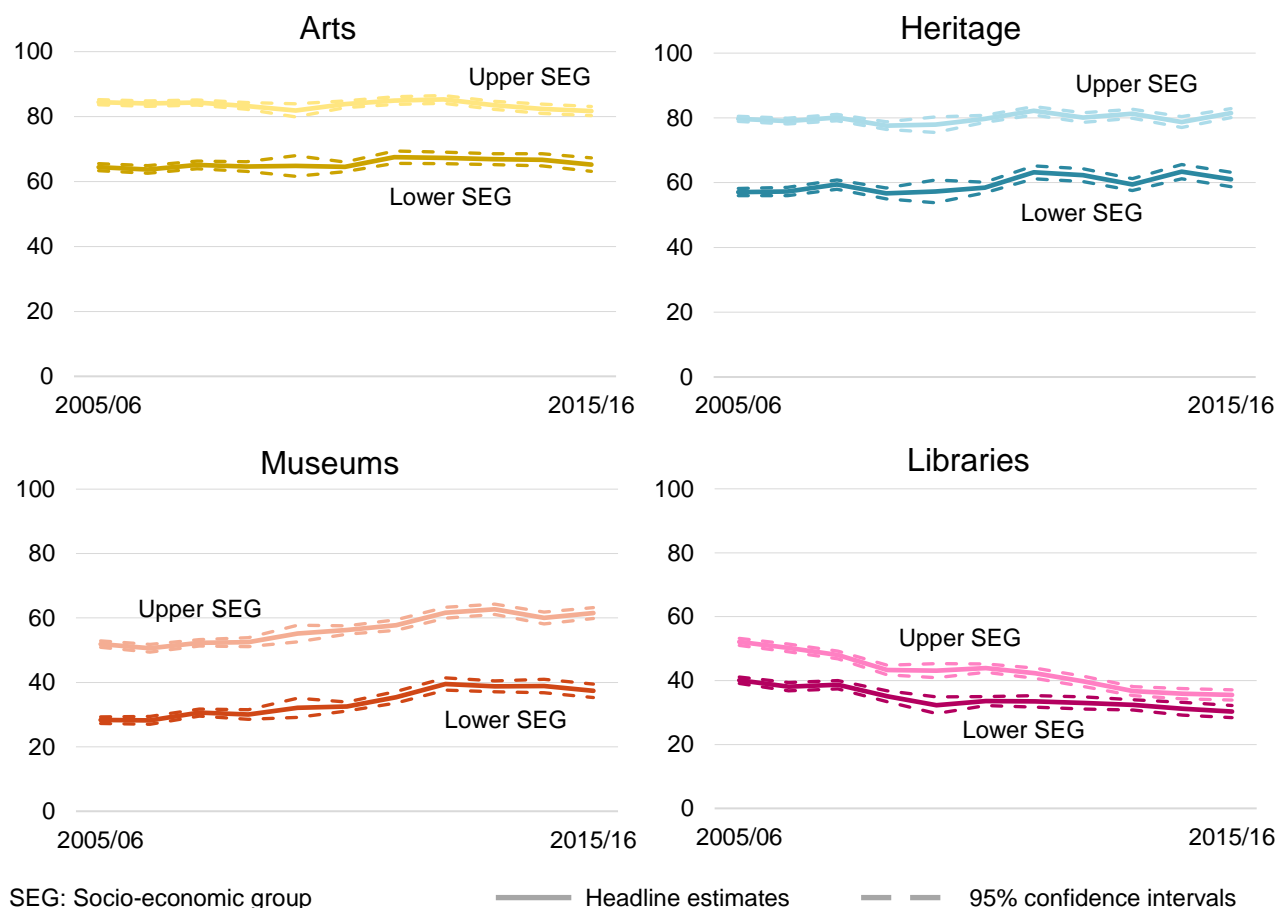
Engagement with museums and galleries was significantly higher in 2015/16 than 2005/06 for all ethnic groups examined here. Across all three years, engagement with museums and galleries was higher for the White ethnic group than the Black ethnic group. Engagement levels were higher for the White ethnic group than the Asian ethnic group in 2005/06 and 2010/11, but there was no significant difference in 2015/16.



Public library use was significantly lower in 2015/16 than 2005/06 for all ethnic groups shown. Across all years, public library use was significantly lower in the White ethnic group than the Black and Asian ethnic groups.

Chapter 2: Socio-economic group

Figure 2.1: Proportion of adults who engaged in culture in the last 12 months, by socio-economic group, 2005/06 to 2015/16



Across all cultural activities, engagement levels are consistently higher for the upper socio-economic group than the lower socio-economic group.



Arts engagement was similar in 2015/16 to 2005/06 for the lower socio-economic group, but was significantly lower in 2015/16 than 2005/06 for the upper socio-economic group. The difference in engagement with the arts between the two groups has decreased slightly, from 20.0 percentage points in 2005/06 to 16.5 percentage points in 2015/16.



For heritage, there have been significant increases in engagement between 2005/06 and 2015/16 for both the upper and lower socio-economic groups.



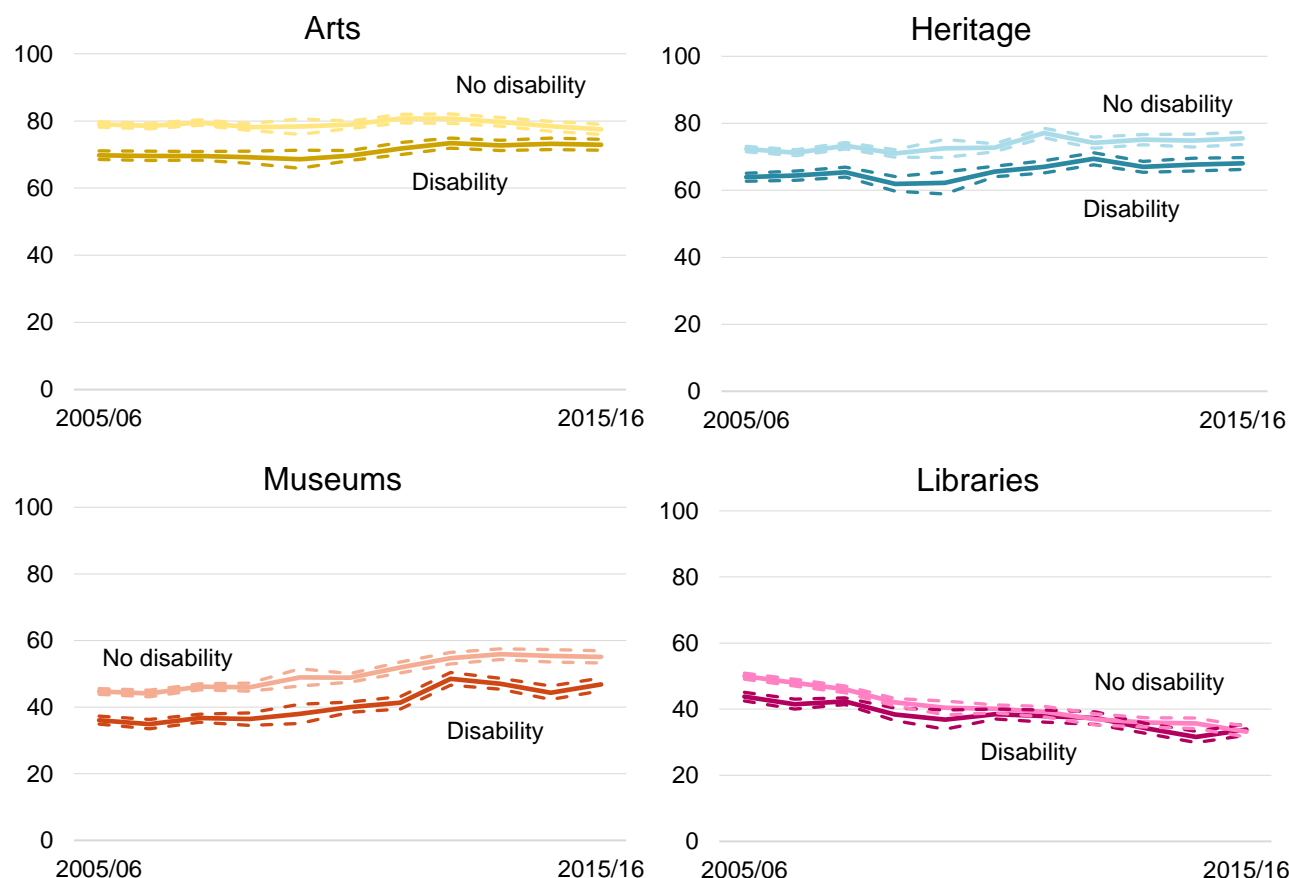
The difference in engagement levels between socio-economic groups is larger for museums and galleries than for the other three cultural activities, at 24.1 percentage points in 2015/16. This engagement gap has remained fairly stable over the period 2005/06 to 2015/16.



Public library use has decreased significantly for both socio-economic groups over the period 2005/06 to 2015/16. The decline has been greatest for the upper socio-economic group, which has led to a decrease in the engagement gap from 12.0 percentage points in 2005/06, to 5.1 percentage points in 2015/16.

Chapter 3: Disability status

Figure 3.1: Proportion of adults who engaged in culture in the last 12 months, by disability status, 2005/06 to 2015/16



Disability: Long-standing illness or disability ——— Headline estimates - - - 95% confidence intervals

Engagement with cultural activities is generally higher for adults with no disability, but there has been some convergence of engagement rates for the arts and libraries.



Between 2005/06 and 2015/16, engagement with the arts has remained stable for adults with no disability, but has increased significantly for adults with a long-standing illness or disability. This has resulted in the engagement gap reducing from 9.2 to 4.6 percentage points.



Over the period 2005/06 to 2015/16, engagement with heritage and with museums & galleries has increased significantly for adults with and without a long-standing illness or disability. For both sectors, the engagement gap by disability status has remained fairly stable.

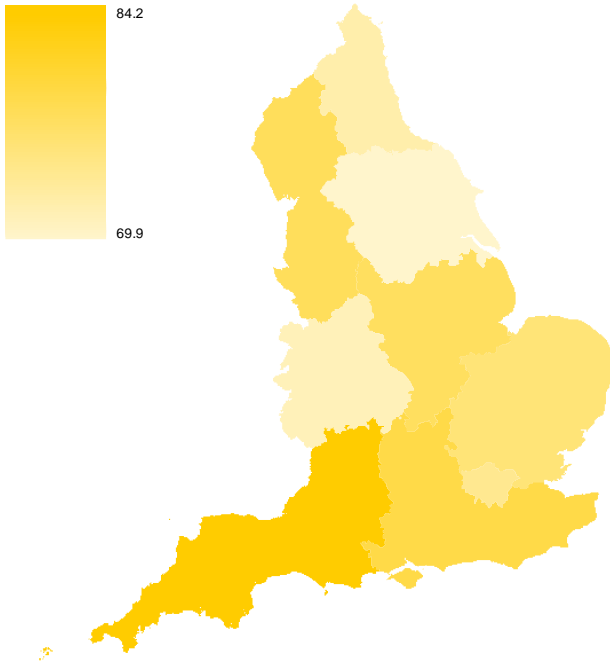


In 2005/06 there was a significant difference in public library use between adults with a long-standing illness or disability and adults with no disability. Over the period 2005/06 to 2015/16, library engagement rates have declined for both groups but have also converged, meaning that there is no longer a significant difference in engagement rates between adults with and without a long-standing illness or disability.

Chapter 4: Region

Arts

Figure 4.1: Proportion of adults who engaged in the arts in the last 12 months, by region, 2015/16



- In 2015/16, engagement with the arts was highest in the South West (84.2%) and lowest in Yorkshire and The Humber (69.9%).
- In the North West, engagement with the arts was significantly higher in 2015/16 (77.8%) than 2005/06 (71.5%).
- In the East of England and Yorkshire and The Humber, arts engagement increased significantly between 2005/06 and 2012/13 to peak levels of 83.6% and 76.4% respectively. However, there was a significant decrease in engagement between 2012/13 and 2015/16 in both regions.

Figure 4.2: Proportion of adults who engaged in the arts in the last 12 months, by region, 2005/06 to 2015/16



Heritage

Figure 4.3: Proportion of adults who visited a heritage site in the last 12 months, by region, 2015/16



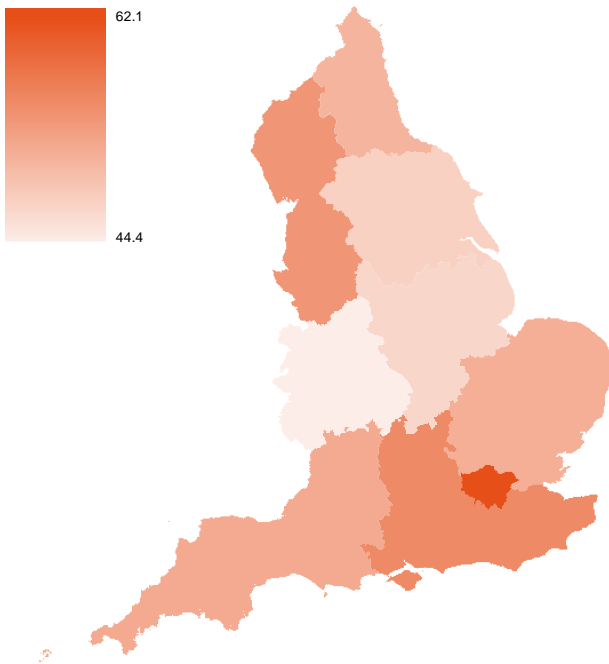
- In 2015/16, engagement with heritage was highest in the South East (78.9%) and South West (78.5%), and lowest in London (66.5%).
- Engagement rates were significantly higher in 2015/16 compared with 2005/06 in the North West, South West and West Midlands.
- In the North East, engagement with heritage reached a peak of 77.6% in 2013/14, up from 69.1% in 2005/06.
- In the East Midlands, engagement with heritage was at its lowest in 2008/09 at 66.8%. Since then it has increased significantly to 75.5% in 2015/16.

Figure 4.4: Proportion of adults who visited a heritage site in the last 12 months, by region, 2005/06 to 2015/16



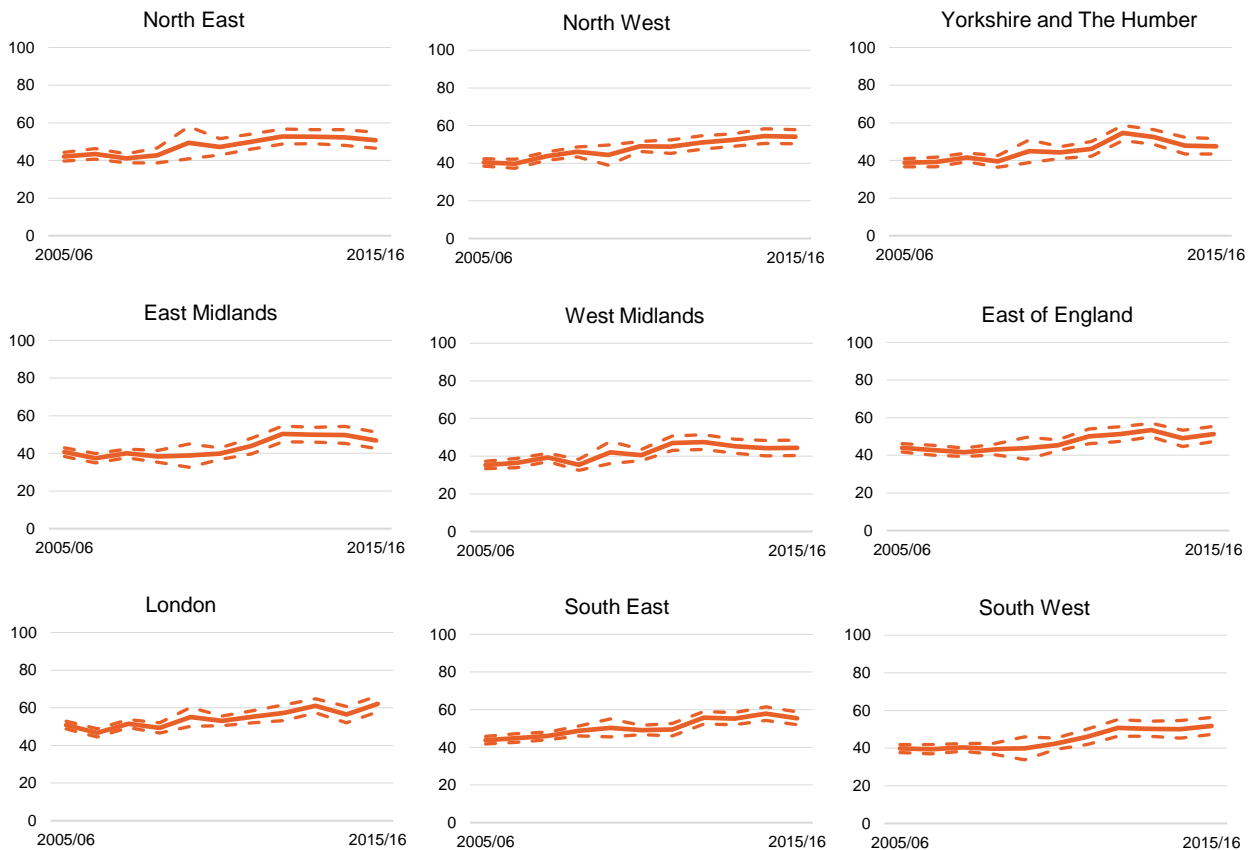
Museums and galleries

Figure 4.5: Proportion of adults who visited a museum or gallery in the last 12 months, by region, 2015/16



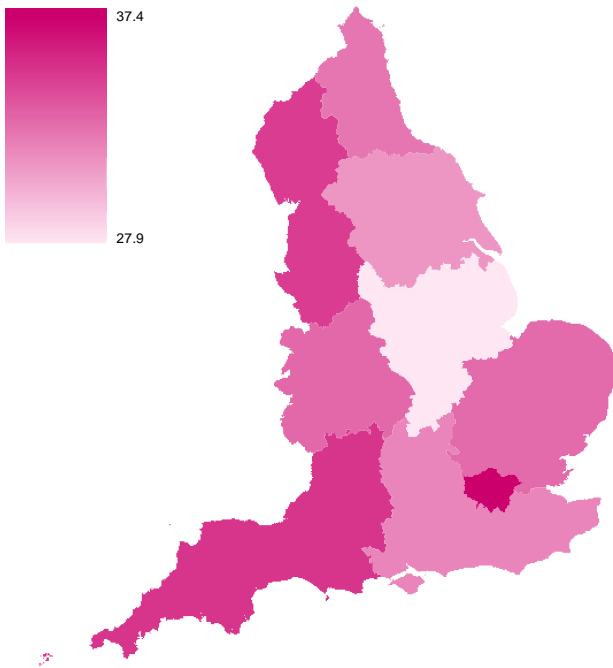
- Engagement with museums and galleries was highest in London (62.1%) and lowest in the West Midlands (44.4%) in 2015/16.
- There has been a significant increase in engagement with museums and galleries in all regions over the period 2005/06 to 2015/16.
- The largest percentage point increase in museum and gallery engagement was in the North West, from 40.4% in 2005/06 to 54.1% in 2015/16. The smallest percentage point increase was in the East Midlands, from 40.7% in 2005/06 to 46.9% in 2015/16.

Figure 4.6: Proportion of adults who visited a museum or gallery in the last 12 months, by region, 2005/06 to 2015/16



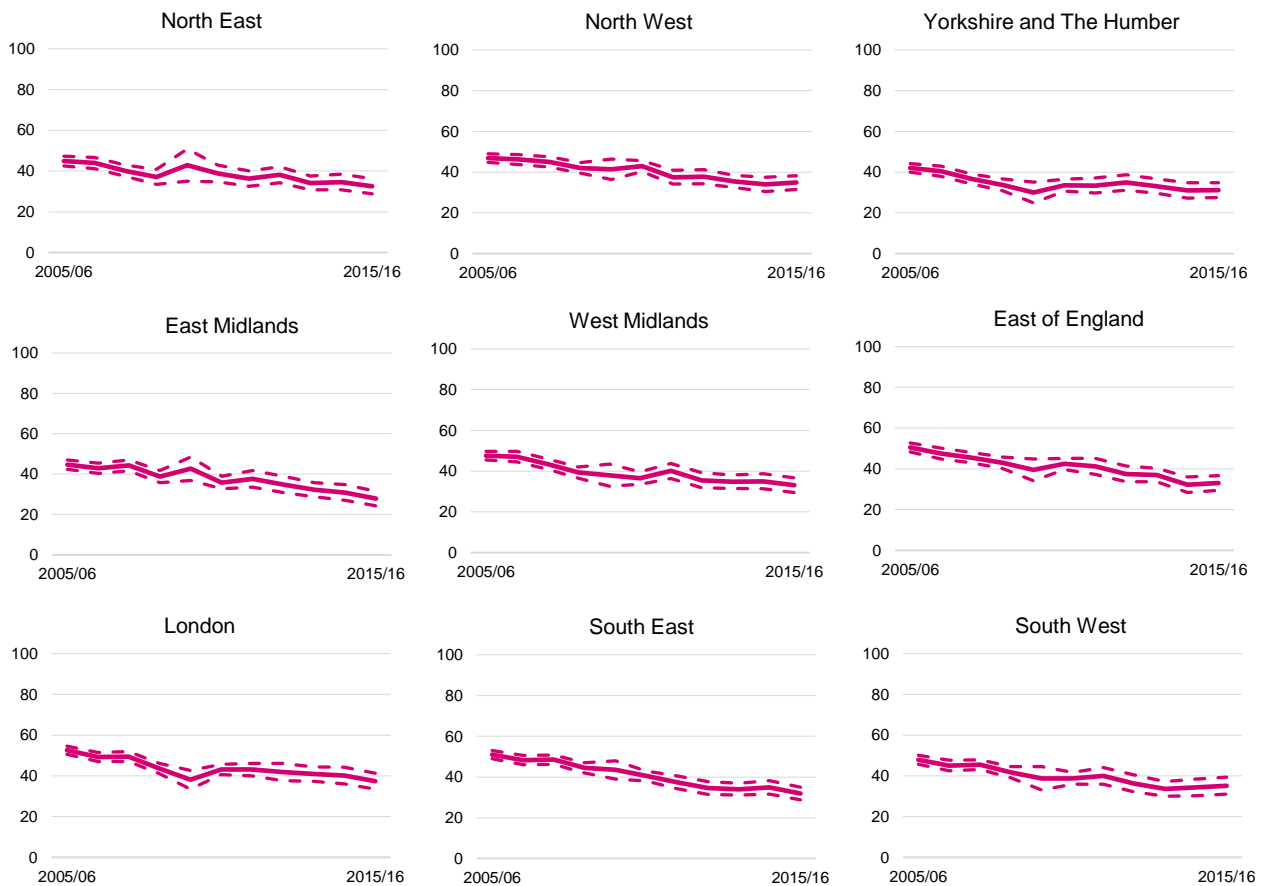
Libraries

Figure 4.7: Proportion of adults who used a public library service in the last 12 months, by region, 2015/16



- In 2015/16, public library use was highest in London (37.4%) and lowest in the East Midlands (27.9%).
- There has been a significant decrease in public library use in all regions over the period 2005/06 to 2015/16.
- The largest percentage point decrease in public library use was in the South East, from 51.0% in 2005/06 to 31.9% in 2015/16.

Figure 4.8: Proportion of adults who used a public library service in the last 12 months, by region, 2005/06 to 2015/16



Annex A: Background

1. The Taking Part survey is commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and its partner Arm's Length Bodies. For 2011 to 2017, these are Arts Council England, Historic England and Sport England.
2. The fieldwork for the Taking Part survey over the period 2005/06 to 2015/16 was conducted by TNS-BMRB.
3. The United Kingdom 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
- 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.

4. Stringent quality assurance procedures have been adopted for this statistical release. All data and analysis has been checked and verified by at least two different members of the DCMS team to ensure the highest level of quality.
5. Guidance on the quality that is expected of Taking Part statistical releases is provided in a [quality indicators document](#). These quality indicators outline how statistics from the Taking Part survey match up to the six dimensions of quality defined by the European Statistical System (ESS). These are: relevance, accuracy, timeliness, accessibility, comparability and coherence.
6. The Taking Part survey measures participation by adults (aged 16 and over) and children (5-10 and 11-15) living in private households in England. No geographical restriction is placed on where the activity or event occurred. Further information on data for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can be found in question 2 of the "[Taking Part: Guidance Note](#)".
7. Unless stated, participation in activities must be for the purpose of recreation or leisure, including voluntary work. It excludes involvement in activities where the prime motivation is paid work or academic studies. The exception to this is engagement with heritage which includes visits made for academic study.
8. Sample sizes for each year and data breakdown can be found in the accompanying tables.
9. All estimates have been rounded to one decimal place.
10. Statistical significant tests have been run at the 95% level. A significant increase at the 95% level means that there is less than 1 in 20 chance that the difference observed within the sampled respondents was not also observed in the population of England as a whole.

11. The upper and lower bounds presented in this report have been calculated using a 95% confidence interval. This means that had the sample been conducted 100 times, creating 100 confidence intervals, then 95 of these intervals would contain the true value. When the sample size is smaller, as is the case for certain groups and in certain years, the confidence intervals are wider as we can be less certain that the individuals in the sample are representative of the population. This means that it is more difficult to draw inferences from the results.
12. The data are weighted to ensure representativeness of the Taking Part sample. There are two types of weighting:
 - to compensate for unequal probabilities of selection
 - to adjust for non-response

Weighting is based on mid-2014 population estimates from the Office for National Statistics.

13. For more information about the Taking Part survey and to access previous publications and the questionnaires, see the [Taking Part survey webpages](#).
14. The responsible statistician for this release is Alison Reynolds. For enquiries on this release, please contact Alison on 0207 211 6776.
15. To be kept informed about Taking Part publications and user events, please sign up to the Taking Part online newsletter [here](#). You can follow us on Twitter [@DCMSInsight](#).

Annex B: Key terms and definitions

Term	Definitions
2005/06	This is the time period covering April 2005 to March 2006. In this release, this refers to the date that the interviews were conducted. The activities reported on took place in the year prior to interview.
2015/16	This is the time period covering April 2015 to March 2016. In this release, this refers to the date that the interviews were conducted. The activities reported on took place in the year prior to interview.
Arts	A list of activities that are classified as engagement with the arts is given in Annex C.
Asian ethnic group	The 'Asian' ethnic group includes adults who have identified as being in the following ethnic groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indian - Pakistani - Bangladeshi - Chinese - Any other Asian background
Black ethnic group	The 'Black' ethnic group includes adults who have identified as being in the following ethnic groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - African - Caribbean - Any other Black/African/Caribbean background
Black and Minority Ethnic (BME)	The 'Black and minority ethnic' group includes adults who have identified as being in the following ethnic groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - White and Black Caribbean - White and Black African - White and Asian - Any other Mixed/Multiple Ethnic background - Indian - Pakistani - Bangladeshi - Chinese - Any other Asian background - African - Caribbean - Any other Black/African/Caribbean background - Arab - Any other ethnic group
Confidence interval	This provides a range in which there is a specific probability that the true value will lie within. For the Taking Part survey, 95 per cent confidence intervals are used which means, had the sampling been conducted 100 times, creating 100 confidence intervals, then 95 of these intervals would contain the true value.
Engagement	This refers to either attending and/or participating in the culture or arts sector, for example, going to the theatre (attendance) or playing a musical instrument (participation).
Heritage	A list of activities that are classified as engagement with heritage is given in Annex C.

Library	The list of activities that are classified as public library use is given in Annex C.
'Other' ethnic group	The 'other' ethnic group includes adults who have identified as being in the following ethnic groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - White and Black Caribbean - White and Black African - White and Asian - Any other Mixed/Multiple ethnic background - Arab - Any other ethnic group
Significant increase/decrease	A significant increase/decrease at the 95% level means that there is less than a 1 in 20 chance that the difference observed within the sampled respondents is not representative of a change for the population of England as a whole.
Socio-economic group	This is a form of socio-economic classification based on the employment status and occupation of the household reference person. The household reference person is the person responsible for owning or renting, or who is otherwise responsible for the accommodation. In the case of joint householders, the person with the highest income is the household reference person. In the case of joint incomes, the oldest person is taken as the household reference person. More information about the NS-SEC socio-economic classification, please see this page on the Office for National Statistics website.
'White' ethnic group	The 'White' ethnic group includes adults who have identified as being in the following ethnic groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British - Irish - Gypsy or Irish Traveller - Any other White background

Annex C: Sector definitions

Arts

The respondent is asked if they have participated in a given list of arts activities, or attended a given list of arts events. Eligible activities and events are as follows.

Participation:

- Dance – ballet or other dance (for fitness and not for fitness)
- Singing – live performance or rehearsal/practice (not karaoke)
- Musical instrument – live performance, rehearsal/practice or played for own pleasure
- Written music
- Theatre – live performance or rehearsal/practice (e.g. play or drama)
- Opera/musical theatre – live performance or rehearsal/practice
- Carnival (e.g. as a musician, dancer or costume maker)
- Street arts (art in everyday surroundings like parks, streets, shopping centre)
- Circus skills (not animals) – learnt or practised
- Visual art – (e.g. painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture)
- Photography (as an artistic activity, not family or holiday ‘snaps’)
- Film or video making (as an artistic activity, not family or holiday videos)
- Digital art – producing original digital artwork or animation with a computer
- Craft – any craft activity (e.g. textiles, wood, metal work, pottery, calligraphy)
- Creative writing – original literature (e.g. stories, poems or plays)
- Book club – being a member of one

Attendance:

- Visual art exhibition (e.g. paintings, photography or sculpture)
- Craft exhibition (not crafts market)
- Event which included video or digital art
- Event connected with books or writing
- Street arts (art in everyday surroundings like parks, streets or shopping centre)
- Public art display or installation (an art work such as sculpture that is outdoors or in a public place)
- Circus (not animals)
- Carnival
- Culturally specific festival (e.g. Mela, Baisakhi, Navratri)
- Theatre (e.g. play, drama, pantomime)
- Opera/musical theatre
- Live music performance (e.g. classical, jazz or other live music event but not karaoke)
- Live dance event (e.g. ballet, African People’s dance, South Asian, Chinese, contemporary or other live dance)

Heritage

The respondent is asked if they have visited the following list of heritage sites:

- A city or town with historic character
- A historic building open to the public (non-religious)
- A historic park, garden or landscape open to the public
- A place connected with industrial history or historic transport system

- A historic place of worship attended as a visitor (not to worship)
- A monument such as a castle, fort or ruin
- A site of archaeological interest
- A site connected with sports heritage (not visited for the purpose of watching sport)

Libraries

The respondent is asked if they have used a public library service. If the respondent is unsure what is in scope, the interviewer has the following definition to refer to:

“Use of a public library can include:

- A visit to a public library building or mobile library to make use of library services (including to print/use electronic resources or to take part in an event such as a reading group or author visit)
- The use of on-line library resources or services remotely (i.e. used a computer outside the library to view the website, catalogue or databases)
- Access, and receipt, of the library service by email, telephone, fax or letter
- Receipt of an outreach service such as home delivery or library events outside a library building

Use of other libraries and archive services is excluded.”



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