



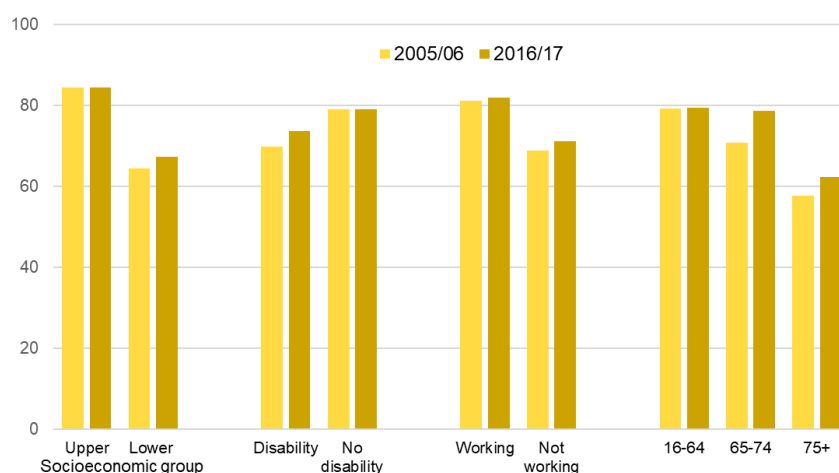
## Taking Part focus on: Arts

Overall, 77% of adults interviewed in 2016/17 had engaged with the arts in the last 12 months.

The proportion of adults engaging with the arts was higher among certain groups including women, people aged 16 to 74, white adults, people in the upper socioeconomic group, people without a long-standing illness or disability and people living in less deprived areas.

Overall rates of engagement with the arts have been fairly stable between 2005/06 and 2016/17 but there has been an increase among some groups including:

- the lower socioeconomic group (up from 64% in 2005/06 to 67% in 2016/17)
- those who are not working (from 69% to 71%)
- respondents with a long-standing illness or disability (70% to 74%)
- people aged 65 to 74 (71% to 79%) and aged and over 75 (58% to 62%).



There was some variation in the types of arts activities and events that different groups engaged with including, between age groups and between ethnic groups.

When asked how much they enjoyed their last arts engagement, around three quarters gave it a rating of at least 8 out of 10.

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 supplements the adult Taking Part report that was published on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017, and provides additional analysis on engagement with arts.

The data used have been collected continuously between April 2005 and March 2017.

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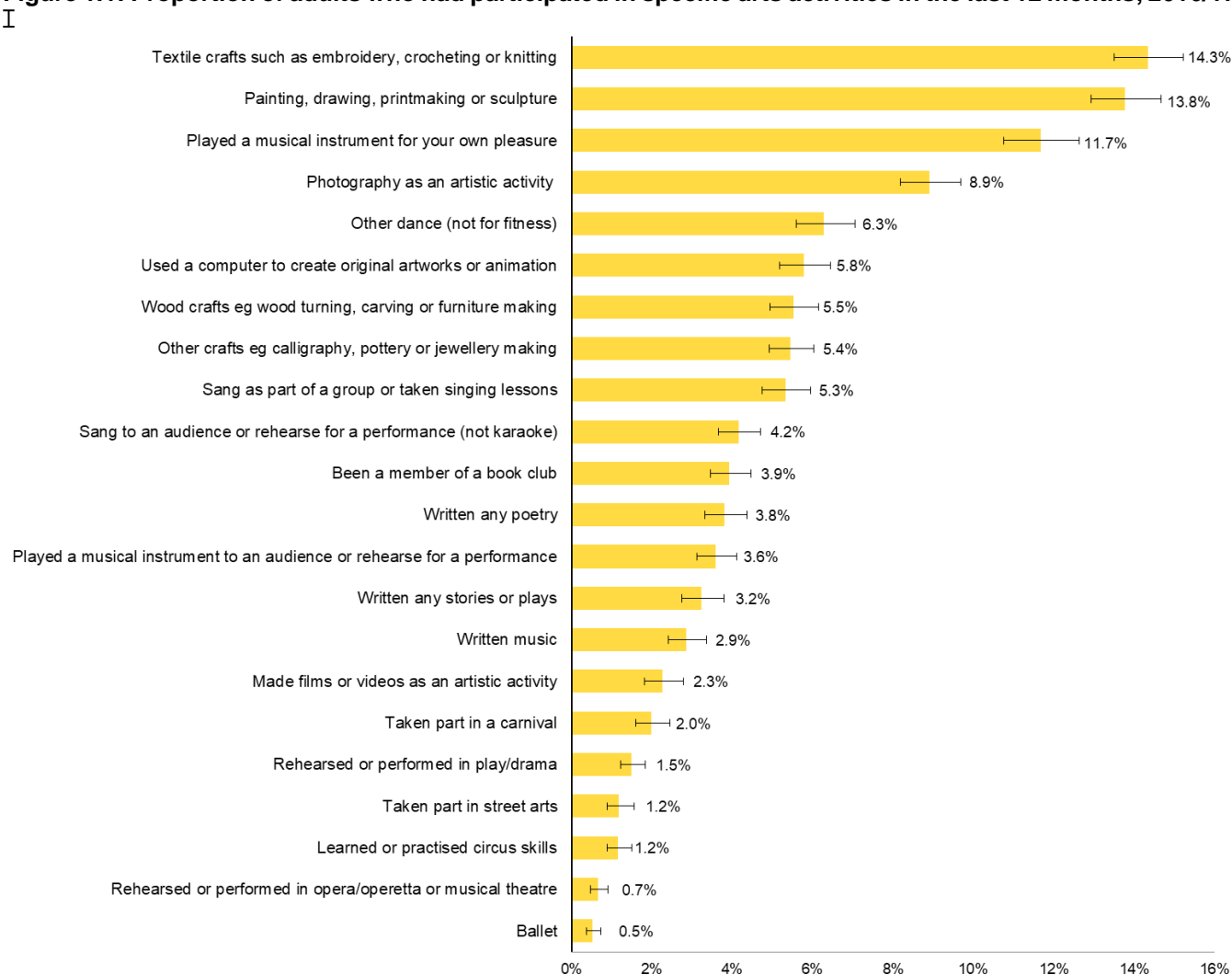
# Chapter 1: Types of arts activity

The Taking Part survey asks whether respondents have participated in a list of arts activities and whether they have attended a list of arts events. The overall measure of arts engagement is derived from these questions. The activities and events covered are shown below, together with the proportion of respondents who had engaged in their own time or for voluntary work at least once in the year before interview.

## Arts participation

Among the arts activities listed, respondents were most likely to have participated in ‘*textile crafts such as embroidery, crocheting or knitting*’ and ‘*painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture*’, both of which had been performed at least once in the last 12 months by 14% of respondents interviewed in 2016/17. 12% said they had ‘*played a musical instrument for your own pleasure*’ and 9% had done ‘*photography as an artistic activity (not holiday snaps)*’.

**Figure 1.1: Proportion of adults who had participated in specific arts activities in the last 12 months, 2016/17**



I 95% confidence interval

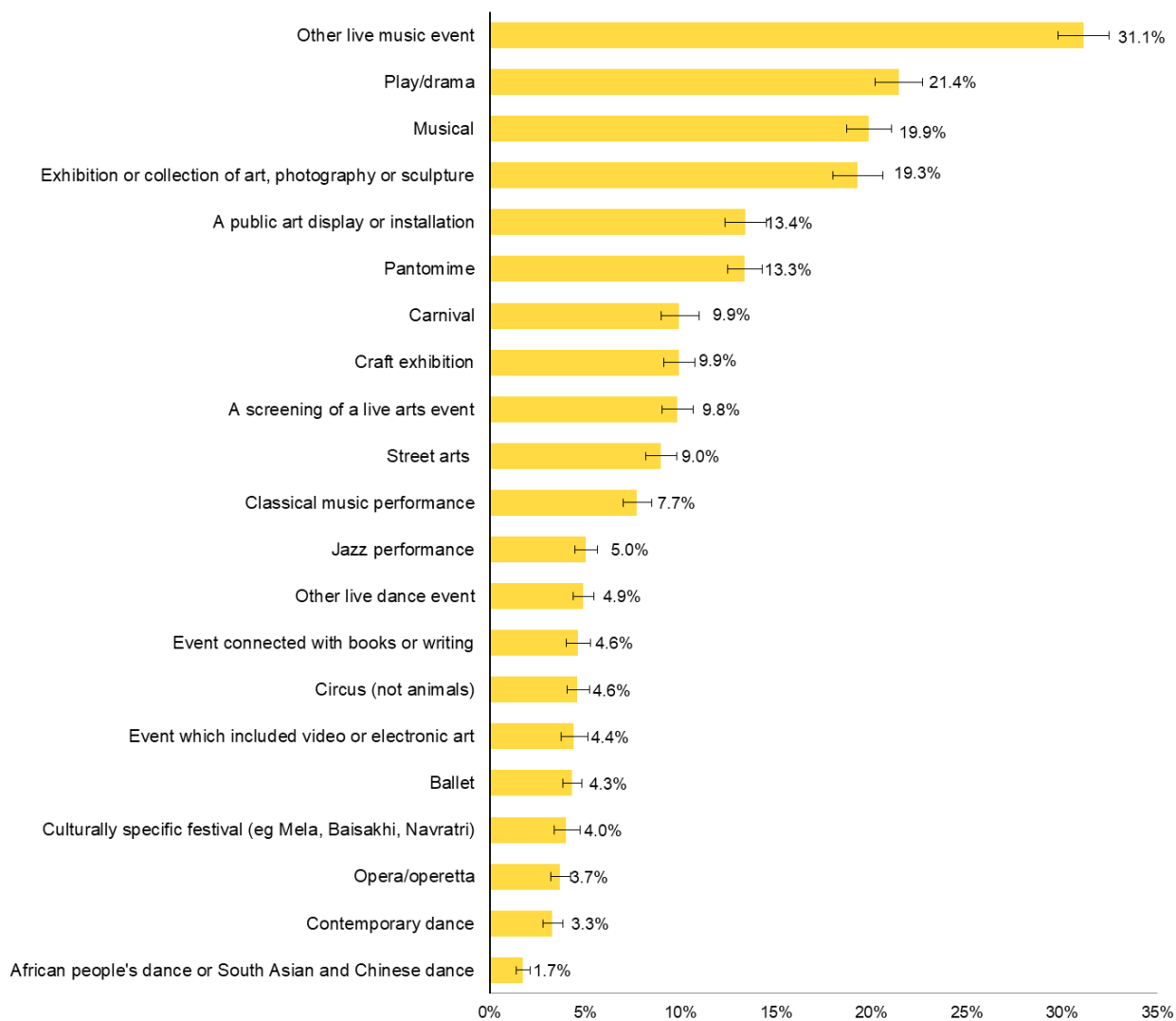
### What is a 95% confidence interval?

A confidence interval provides a range in which there is a specific probability that the true value for the population will fall. The Taking Part survey uses 95% confidence intervals. This means that had the sampling been conducted 100 times, creating 100 confidence intervals, then 95 of these intervals would contain the true value for adults in England. When sample sizes are smaller we can be less certain in our estimates so confidence intervals are wider.

## Arts attendance

From the list of arts events, respondents were most likely to have attended an ‘*other live music event*’<sup>1</sup>, with 31% of respondents attending at least one such event in the 12 months before their interview. This was followed by a ‘*play/drama*’ (21% of respondents), a ‘*musical*’ (20%) and an ‘*exhibition or collection of art, photography or sculpture*’ (19%).

**Figure 1.2: Proportion of adults who had attended in specific arts events in the last 12 months, 2016/17**



┆ 95% confidence interval

<sup>1</sup> ‘Other live music event’ covers live music not captured elsewhere i.e. not jazz, classical music or opera

## Chapter 2: Frequency of arts engagement

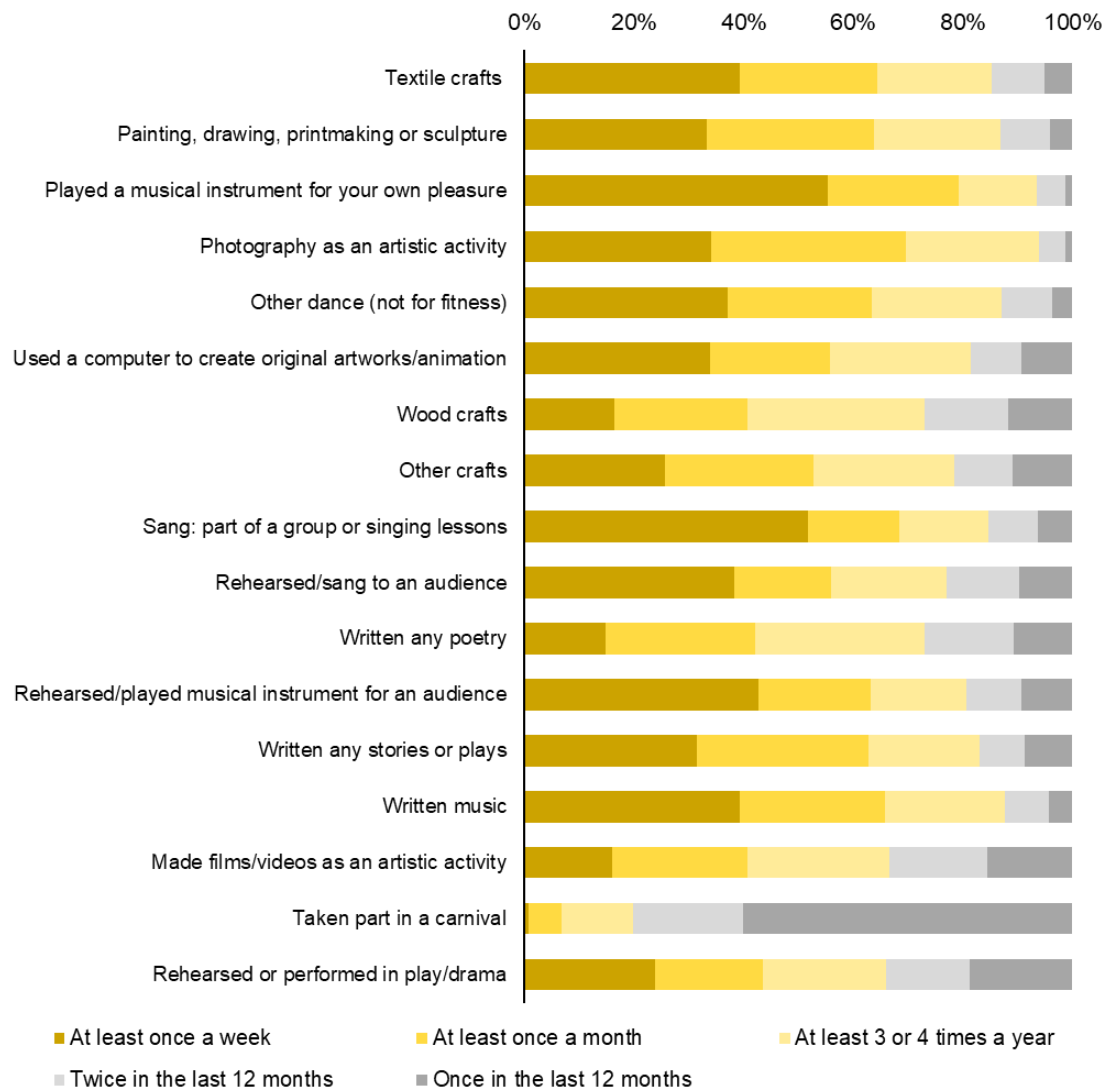
Where respondents had participated in an arts activity or attended an arts event, they were asked how often they had done so.

### Frequency of arts participation

For most activities, respondents had participated at least once a month. For example, 64% of those who had done *textile crafts* and '*painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture*' had done this at least once a month while 79% of those who *played a musical instrument for pleasure* had done so at least once a month.

A marked exception was taking part in a carnival, with only 7% of people who had done this saying they had participated at least once a month and 59% saying they had done so only once in the last 12 months.

**Figure 2.1: Frequency of participation in specific arts activities<sup>2</sup> among those who have participated, 2016/17**



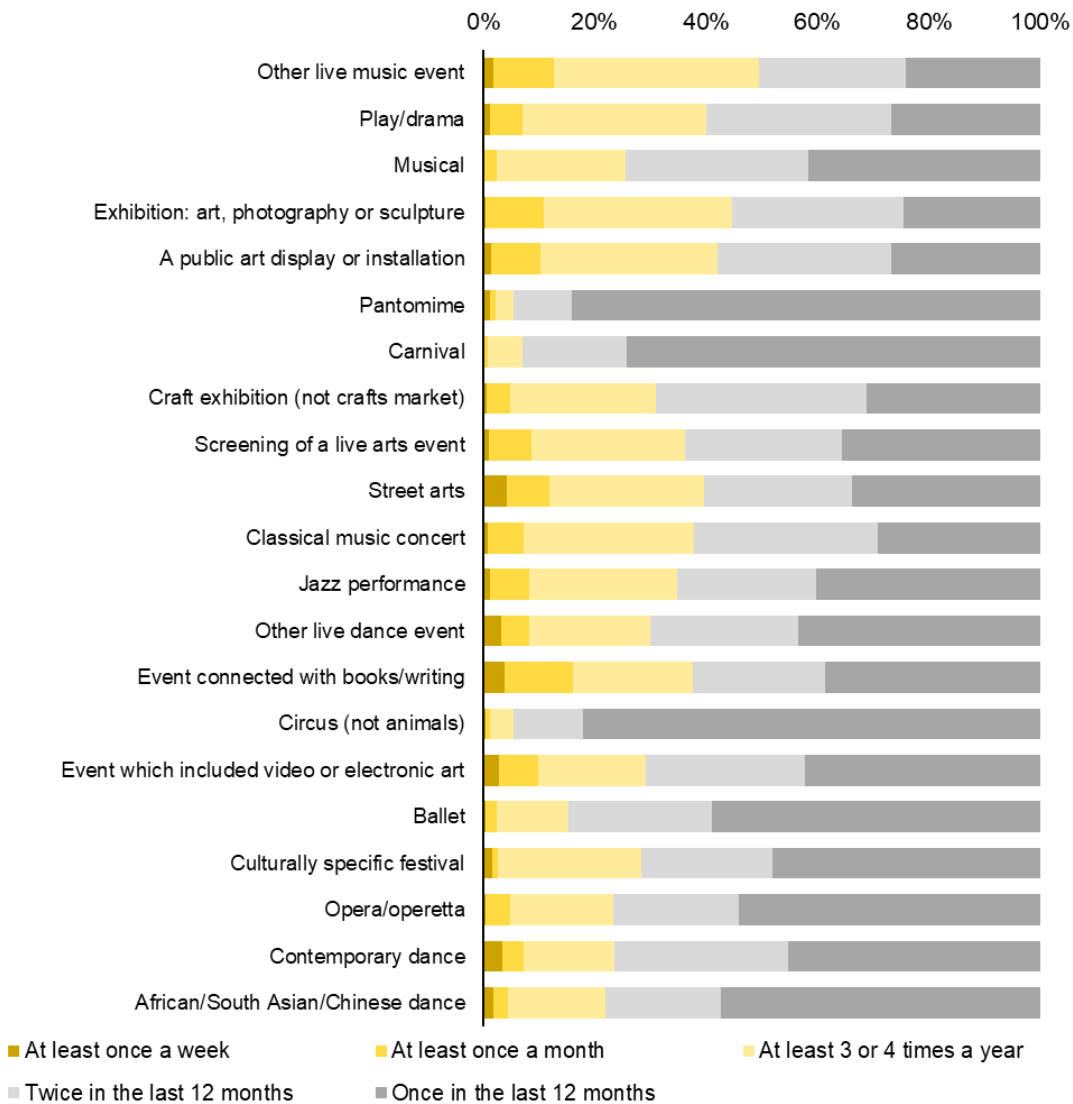
<sup>2</sup> Only activities where the unweighted sample size of people participating at least once a year was over 100 are included in this analysis. The activity descriptions have been abbreviated here. See Annex C for full descriptions.

## Frequency of arts attendance

Where respondents had attended as arts event, they had generally done this just once or twice during the last 12 months. For example, among those who had attended an ‘*other live music event*’, 50% had done this once or twice in the last year. This figure was 60% for those who had been to a *play/drama* and 74% for those who had been to a *musical*.

Respondents who had been to *pantomimes*, *circuses* and *carnivals* were particularly likely to have been just once (84%, 82% and 74% respectively).

**Figure 2.2: Frequency of attendance at specific arts events<sup>3</sup> among those who have attended, 2016/17**

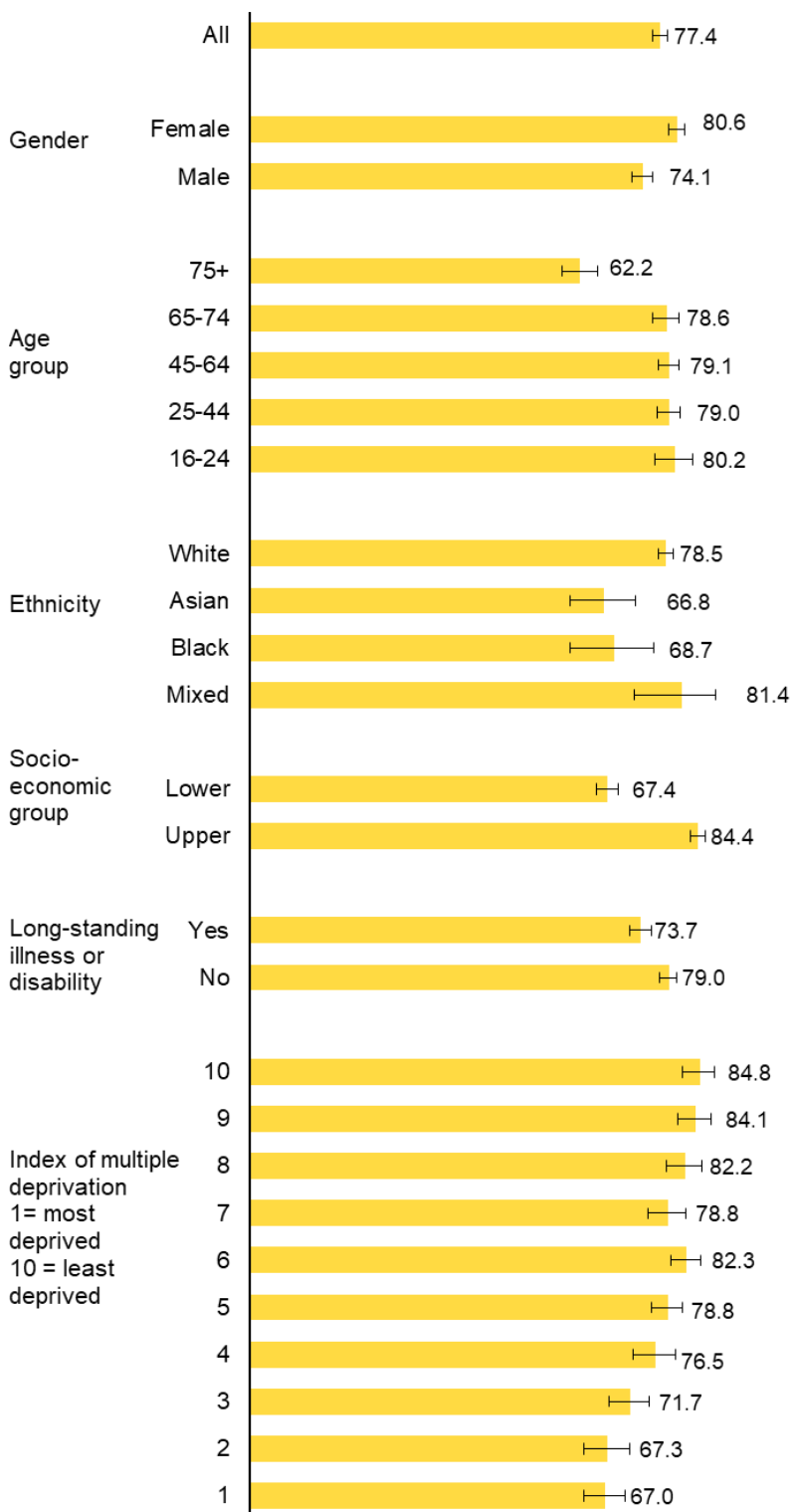


<sup>3</sup> Only events where the unweighted sample size of people attending at least once a year was over 100 are included in this analysis. The event descriptions have been abbreviated here. See Annex C for full descriptions

# Chapter 3: Engagement by different groups

The overall measure for whether someone has engaged in the arts is based on whether they have participated in or attended any of the events showed in Figures 1.1 and 1.2 in their own time or for voluntary work at least once in the last 12 months. The chart below summarises levels of arts engagement, based on this measure, among different demographic groups.

**Figure 3.1: Proportion of adults who had engaged in the arts in the last 12 months by demographic characteristics, 2016/17**



Overall, 77% of adults interviewed in 2016/17 had engaged with the arts in the last 12 months

Arts engagement was higher among women (81%) than men (74%).

Engagement was similar across the age groups except among the oldest group, aged 75 and over, among whom it was lower. Only 62% of respondents aged 75+ had engaged in the arts in the last 12 months.

White adults (79%) were more likely to have engaged than Asian (67%) or black (69%) adults. 81% of adults from a mixed ethnic background had engaged. Low sample sizes for the black and mixed ethnic groups mean these estimates are less reliable.

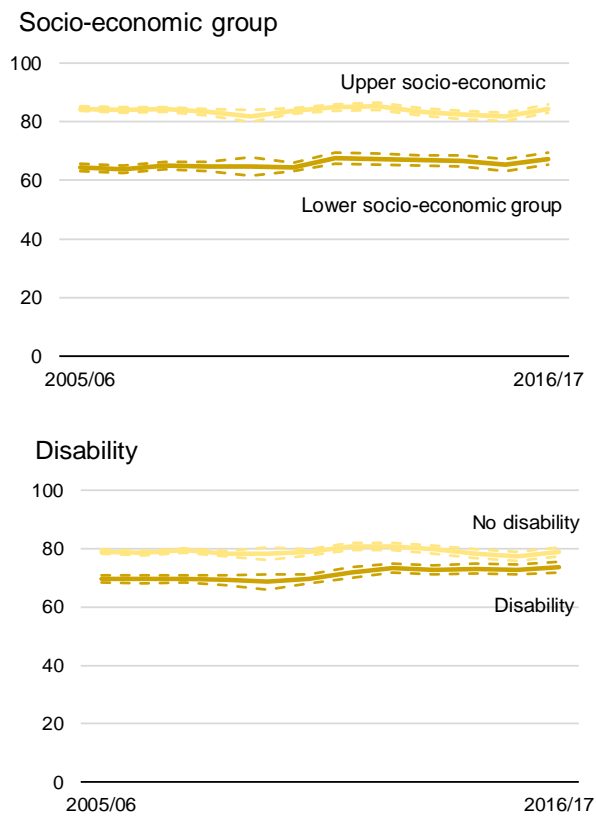
Engagement was higher among respondents from the upper socioeconomic group (84% compared to 67% for the lower socioeconomic group) and among those without a long-standing illness or disability (79% compared to 74% for those with a disability).

Classifying respondents' area of residence in deciles using the Index of Multiple Deprivation shows a reduction in engagement in the arts as deprivation increases. In 2016/17, 85% of respondents living in the least deprived decile (or the least deprived 10 per cent) had engaged with the arts at least once compared to 67% in the most deprived decile, a significant difference.

# Chapter 4: Trends in engagement

Overall rates of engagement with the arts have been fairly stable between 2005/06 and 2016/17 but there have been some changes for particular groups. Some of the more notable changes are shown here.

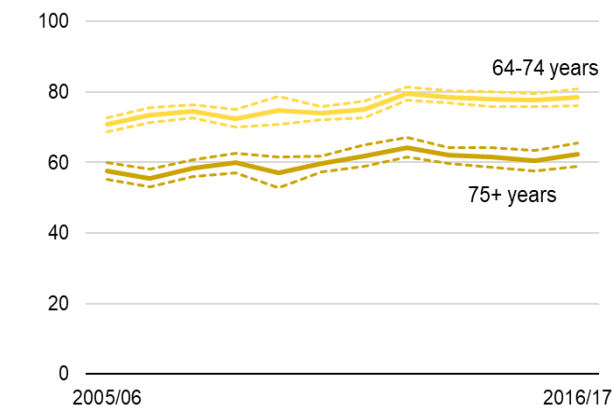
**Figure 4.1 Arts engagements by socioeconomic group, working status and disability, 2005/06 to 2016/17**



Between 2005/06 and 2016/17, the proportion of people who had engaged with the arts at least once in the last year increased slightly among:

- those in the lower socioeconomic group (from 64% to 67% in 2016/17)
- respondents who are not working (from 69% to 71%)
- respondents who had a long-term illness or disability (from 70% to 74%)

**Figure 4.2 Arts engagements by older adults, 2005/06 to 2016/17**



While arts engagement among the younger age groups (16 to 64 years) has been fairly stable since 2005/06, older age groups have seen an increase.

In particular, the proportion of 65-74 year olds engaging at least once a year has increased from 71% in 2005/06 to 79% in 2016/17. Among respondents aged 75 and over there has also been a small increase, from 58% to 62% over the same period.

There will be some interaction between these trends. For example, older people are less likely to be employed and more likely to have a long-standing illness or disability than younger adults.

# Chapter 5: Engagement in specific activities by ethnicity and age

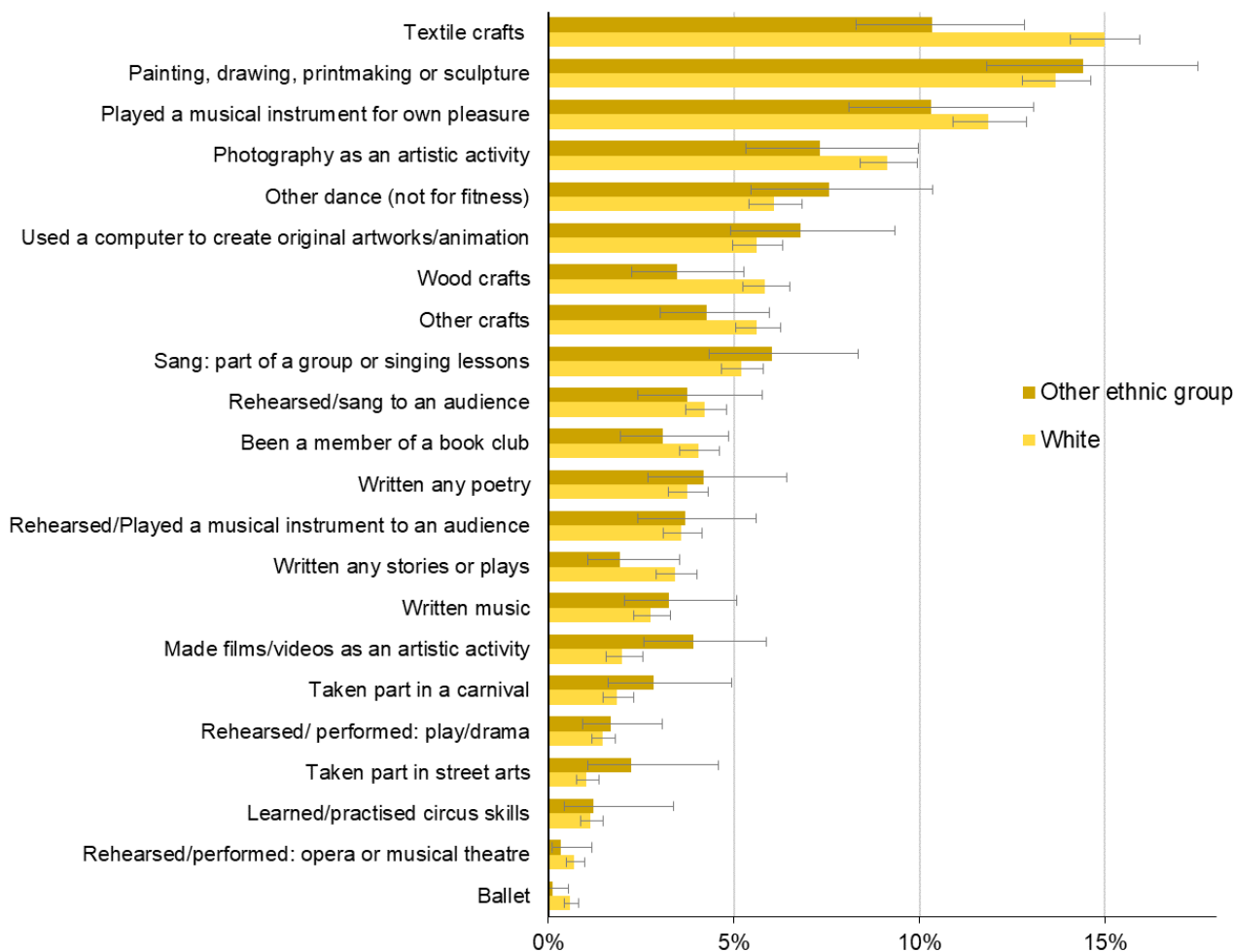
Overall arts engagement is higher for white respondents than other ethnic groups and lower for people aged 75+ than younger adults, but there are some different patterns when looking at engagement with specific arts activities and events.

## Arts participation by ethnic group

In 2016/17 levels of participation were higher among white respondents for *textile crafts* (15% had engaged in the last 12 months compared to 10% among other ethnic groups) and *wood crafts* (6% compared to 3%). Participation rates were higher among respondents from other ethnic groups for '*made films or videos as an artistic activity*' (4% compared to 2%).

The data suggest there are other activities which are more popular among either white respondents or those from another ethnic group but the sample sizes are generally too small to demonstrate that these differences are statistically significant.

**Figure 5.1: Proportion of adults who had participated in specific arts activities<sup>4</sup> by ethnic group, 2016/17**



I 95% confidence interval

<sup>4</sup> The activity descriptions have been abbreviated here. See Annex C for full descriptions

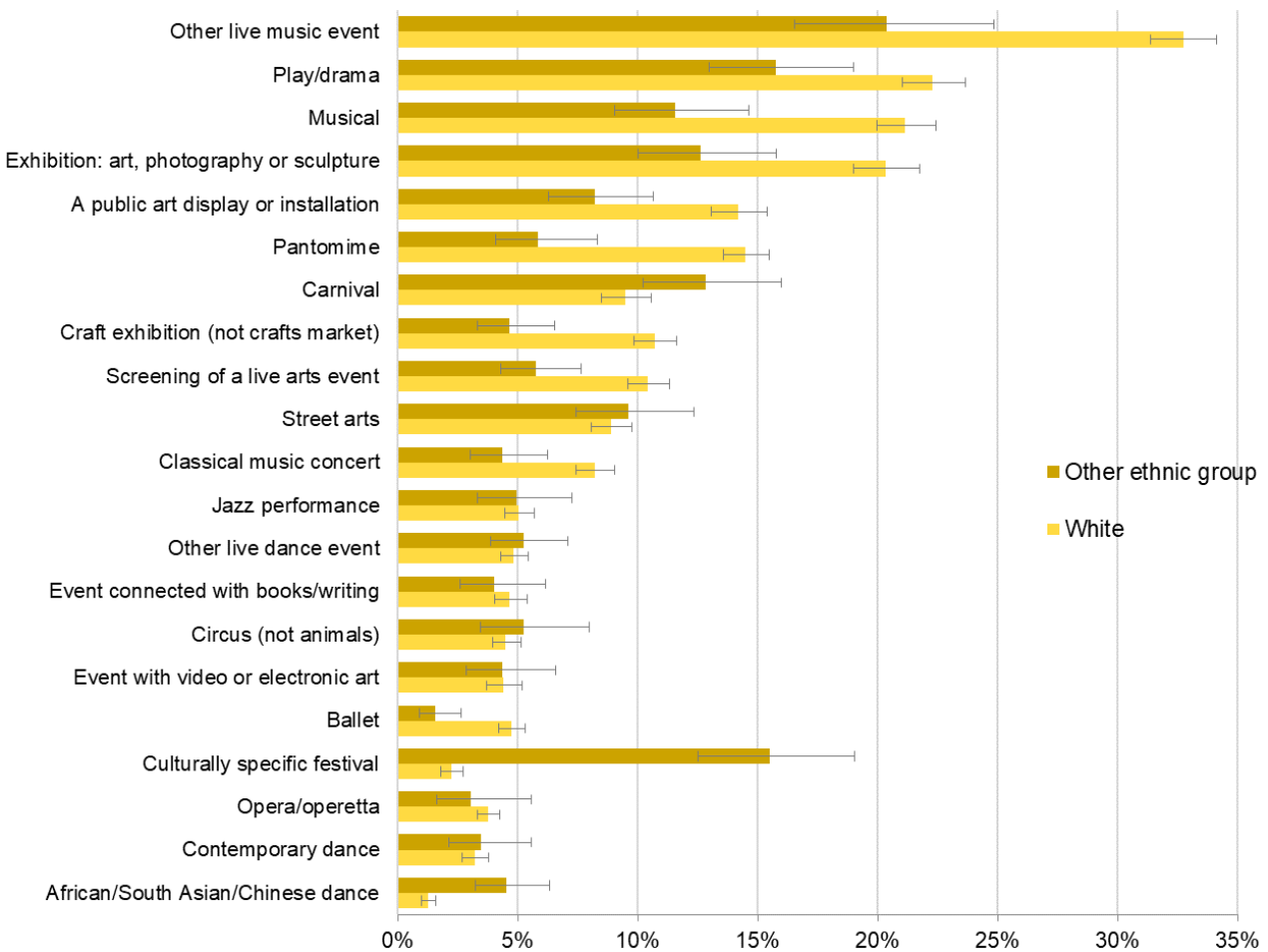


### Arts attendance by ethnic group

Attendance was higher for white respondents for many of the events listed, including *other live music event; play/drama; musical; exhibition or collection of art, photography or sculpture; public art display or installation; pantomime; craft exhibition, classical music performance and ballet*. Attendance was higher among adults from other ethnic groups for *carnival, culturally specific festival and African/South Asian and Chinese dance*.

Attendance was similar for white adults and those from other ethnic groups for most of the other events listed, including *jazz performance and event with video or electronic art*.

**Figure 5.2: Proportion of adults who had attended specific arts events<sup>5</sup> by ethnic group, 2016/17**



I 95% confidence interval

\*

<sup>5</sup> The event descriptions have been abbreviated here. See Annex C for full descriptions

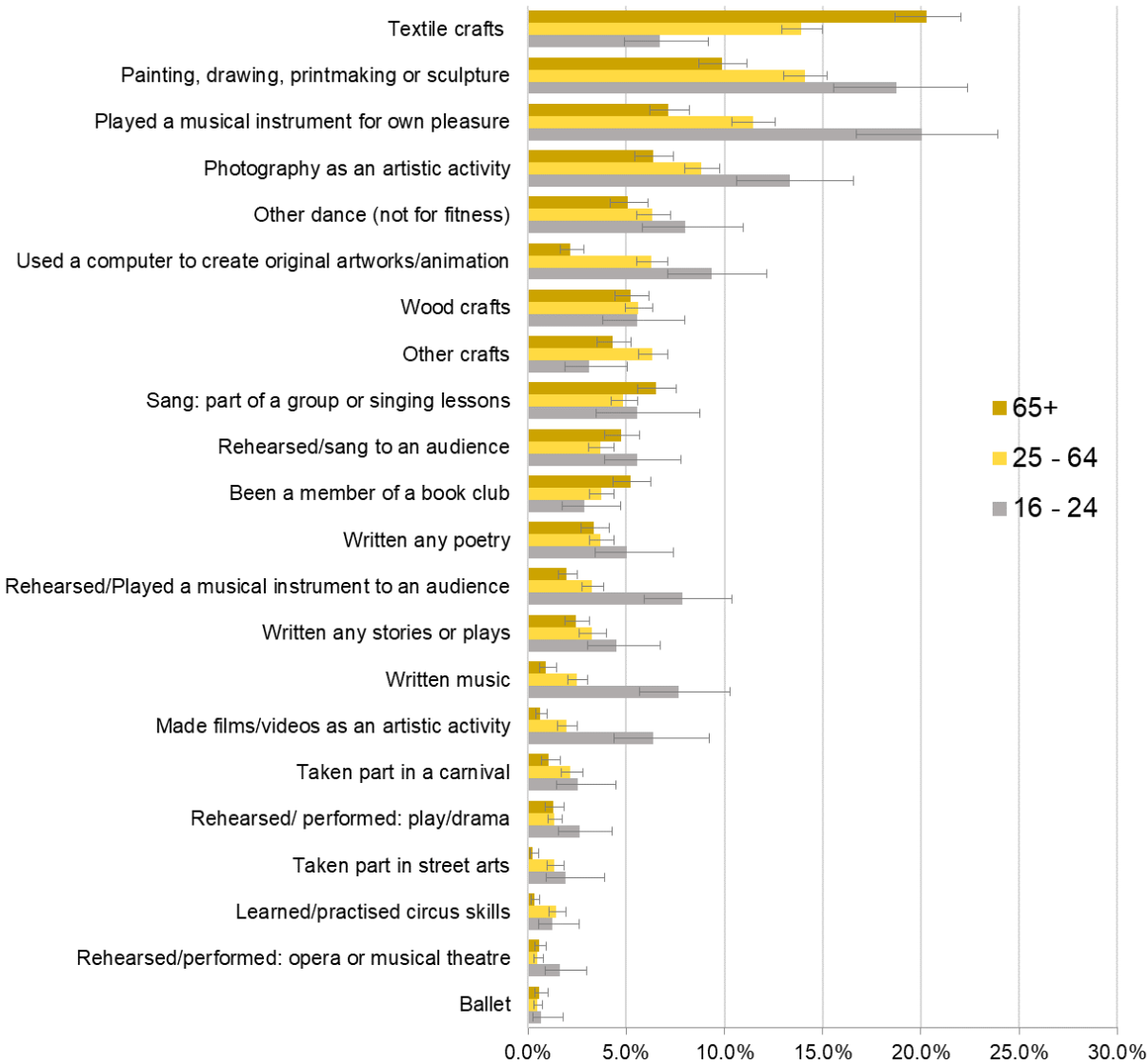
### Arts participation by age group

There were some marked differences by age in terms of specific types of activities in which respondents participated.

Older adults, aged 65 and over, tended to participate less than younger people. The main exception was *'textile crafts such as embroidery, crocheting or knitting'*, with 20% of people aged 65 and over saying they had done this at least once a month compared to 14% among 25-64 year olds and 7% among people aged 16-24.

Younger adults, aged 16-24, were more likely than older adults to have *played a musical instrument for their own pleasure* (20% compared to 11% among 25-64 year olds and 7% among those aged 65 and over) or done *'painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture'* (19%, 14% and 10% respectively). They were also more likely than other ages to have done *photography as an artistic activity* (13%, 9% and 6%), *used a computer to create original artworks or animation* (9%, 6% and 2%), *rehearsed or played a musical instrument to an audience* (8%, 3% and 2%), *written music* (8%, 2%, 1%) or *made films or videos as an artistic activity* (6%, 2% and 1%).

**Figure 5.3: Proportion of adults who had participated in specific arts activities<sup>6</sup> by age group, 2016/17**

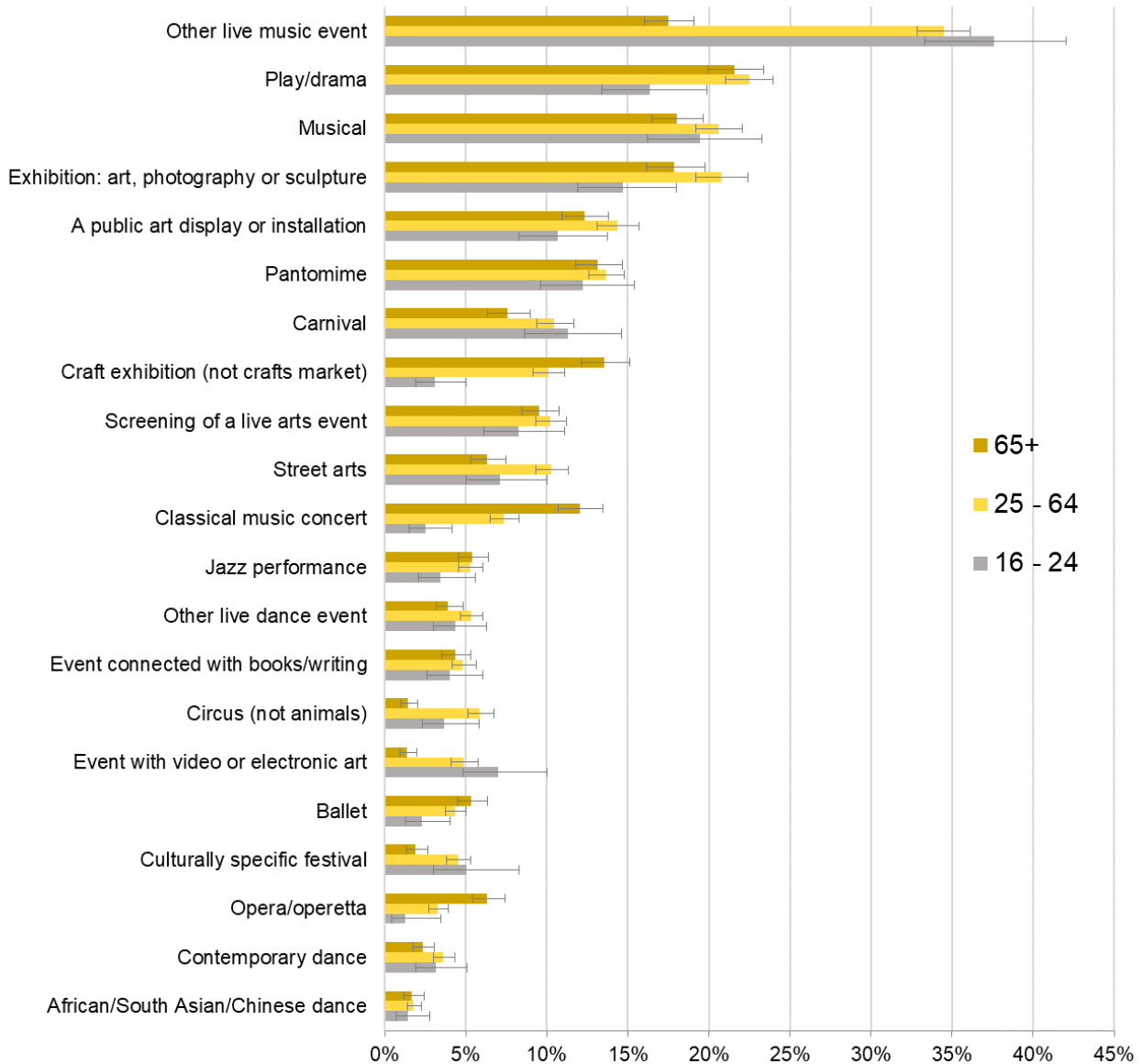


<sup>6</sup> The activity descriptions have been abbreviated here. See Annex C for full descriptions

## Arts attendance by age group

Adults aged 65 and over were much less like to have attended the most popular type of arts event, ‘*other live music event*’, than younger adults (18% aged 65 and over had done so in the last 12 months compared to 34% of 25-64 year olds and 38% of those aged 16 to 24), but were more likely to have attended a *craft exhibition* (14% compared to 10% and 3% respectively), *classical music performance* (12%, 7% and 3%) and an *opera* (6%, 3% and 1%).

Figure 5.4: Proportion of adults who had attended in specific arts events<sup>7</sup> by age group, 2016/17



<sup>7</sup> The event descriptions have been abbreviated here. See Annex C for full descriptions

The three most popular arts activities and events by age and ethnic group are shown below together with the proportion of adults in each group engaging in these activities at least once in the last year in their own time or for voluntary work.

### Participation

	Ranking	#1	#2	#3	
Age groups	16 - 24	20%	19%	13%	Painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture Textile crafts Playing a musical instrument for own pleasure Photography as an artistic activity
	25 - 64	14%	14%	11%	
	65+	20%	10%	7%	
Ethnicity	White	15%	14%	12%	
	Other ethnicity	14%	10%	10%	

*Textile crafts* were the most popular arts activity among adults aged 65 and over (20% had done this at least once in the last year) and among white adults (15%). ‘*Painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture*’ was the most popular activity among other ethnic groups (14%) and among 25 to 64 year olds (14%). ‘*Playing a musical instrument for your own pleasure*’ was the most popular activity among young adults, aged 16 to 24 (20%).

### Attendance

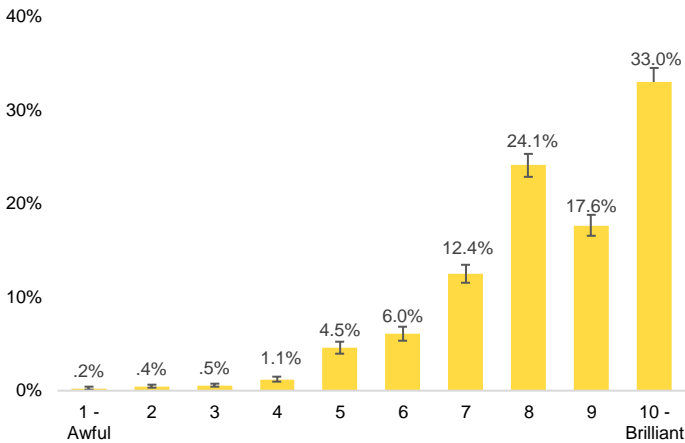
	Ranking	#1	#2	#3	
Age groups	16 - 24	38%	19%	16%	Musical Play/drama Other live music event Exhibition: art, photography or sculpture Culturally specific festival
	25 - 64	34%	22%	21%	
	65+	22%	18%	18%	
Ethnicity	White	33%	22%	21%	
	Other ethnicity	20%	16%	16%	

‘*Other live music event*’ was the most popular arts event among adults from white and other ethnic groups (33% and 20% respectively) and among adults aged 16 to 64. Among adults aged 65 and over, *play/drama* was the most popular arts event (22% had done this at least once).

# Chapter 6: Enjoyment of arts engagement

Respondents who had engaged in the arts in the last 12 months in their own time or for voluntary work were asked how much they enjoyed the activity last time they engaged, on a scale of 1 (awful) to 10 (brilliant). Where respondents were engaged with more than one activity, they were asked about a single activity selected at random.

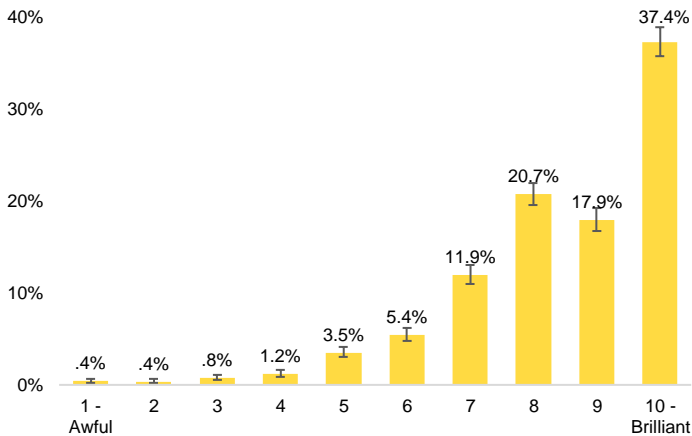
**Figure 6.1: Enjoyment of arts participation, 2016/17**



In 2016/17, three quarters (75%) of those who had participated in an arts activity rated their enjoyment of their last experience as 8 out of 10 or higher. A third (33%) said it was brilliant (10 out of 10) and 0.2% said it was awful (1 out of 10).

The average enjoyment score was 8.3 out of 10.

**Figure 6.2: Enjoyment of arts attendance, 2016/17**



Similarly, 76% of those who had attended an arts event rated their enjoyment of their last event as 8 out of 10 or higher with 37% saying it was brilliant (10 out of 10) and 0.4% saying it was awful (1 out of 10).

The average enjoyment score was 8.4 out of 10.

## Annex A: Background

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1. The Taking Part survey is commissioned by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and its partner Arm's Length Bodies. For 2011 to 2018, 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 and for 2016/17 onwards was conducted by Ipsos Mori and NatCen Social Research.
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. Sample sizes for each breakdown can be found in the accompanying tables.
8. Changes over time and differences between groups are only reported on where they are statistically significant at the 95% level. This means that we can be confident that the differences seen in our sampled respondents are reflective of the population. Specifically, the statistical tests used mean we can be confident that if we carried out the same survey on different random samples of the population, 95 times out of 100 we would get similar findings. When sample sizes are smaller we can be less confident in our estimates so differences need to be greater to be considered statistically significant.
9. 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.

10. 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-2016 population estimates from the Office for National Statistics.

11. For more information about the Taking Part survey and to access previous publications and the questionnaires, see the [Taking Part survey webpages](#).
12. The responsible statistician for this release is Olivia Christophersen. For enquiries on this release, please contact Olivia on 0207 211 2377 or email [takingpart@culture.gov.uk](mailto:takingpart@culture.gov.uk).
13. 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
2016/17	This is the time period covering April 2016 to March 2017. 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.
Other ethnic groups	<p>Where the text refers to 'other ethnic groups', this includes adults who have identified as being in the following ethnic groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- White and Black Caribbean</li> <li>- White and Black African</li> <li>- White and Asian</li> <li>- Any other Mixed/Multiple Ethnic background</li> <li>- Indian</li> <li>- Pakistani</li> <li>- Bangladeshi</li> <li>- Chinese</li> <li>- Any other Asian background</li> <li>- African</li> <li>- Caribbean</li> <li>- Any other Black/African/Caribbean background</li> <li>- Arab</li> <li>- Any other ethnic group</li> </ul>
Confidence interval	A confidence interval provides a range in which there is a specific probability that the true value for the population will fall. For the Taking Part survey, 95% 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 for adults in England.
Arts	A list of activities that are classified as engagement with the arts is given in Annex C.
Significant difference	A significant difference at the 95% level means that if we carried out the same survey on different random samples of the population, 95 times out of 100 we would observe this difference.
Socio-economic group	<p>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.</p> <p>More information about the NS-SEC socio-economic classification, please see <a href="#">this page</a> on the Office for National Statistics website.</p>
'White' ethnic group	<p>The 'White' ethnic group includes adults who have identified as being in the following ethnic groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British</li> <li>- Irish</li> <li>- Gypsy or Irish Traveller</li> <li>- Any other White background</li> </ul>



## Annex C: Sector definitions

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### Arts

The respondent was asked whether they had participated in a given list of arts activities, or attended a given list of arts events. Eligible activities and events were as follows.

#### Participation:

- Ballet
- Other dance (not for fitness)
- Sang to an audience or rehearsed for a performance (not karaoke)
- Sang as part of a group or taken singing lesson
- Played a musical instrument to an audience or rehearsed for a performance
- Played a musical instrument for your own pleasure
- Written music
- Rehearsed or performed in a play / drama
- Rehearsed or performed in an opera / operetta or musical theatre
- Taken part in a carnival (eg. as a musician, dancer or costume maker)
- Taken part in street arts (an artistic performance that takes place in everyday surroundings like parks, streets or shopping centres)
- Learned or practised circus skills
- 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 holidays)
- Used a computer to create original artworks or animation
- Textile crafts such as embroidery, crocheting or knitting
- Wood crafts such as wood turning, carving or furniture making
- Other crafts such as calligraphy, pottery or jewellery for yourself
- Written any stories or plays
- Written any poetry
- Member of a Book club [NB this is asked as two separate questions: People who selected 'Read for pleasure (not newspapers, magazines or comics)' from the list of activities were and then asked whether this was as part of a group or club]

#### Attendance:

- Exhibition or collection of art, photography or sculpture
- Craft exhibition (not crafts market)
- Event which included video or electronic 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)
- Play/drama
- Pantomime
- Musical
- Opera/ operetta

- Classical music performance
- Jazz performance
- Other live music event performance (not karaoke)
- Ballet
- Contemporary dance
- African People's dance or South Asian and Chinese dance
- Other live dance event
- Screening of a live arts event, such as a theatre show or opera, in a cinema or other venue

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