Community Life Survey
User Event

31st January 2018
Agenda

15:15: Welcome and introduction: David Knott, Director of Office for Civil Society, DCMS

15:30: Survey overview and recent results: Rosanna White, DCMS

16:00: User perspective: Karl Wilding, Director of Public Policy and Volunteering, NCVO

16:30: Breakout session: Seeking user views on future developments

17:00: Networking and close
Community Life Survey in Office for Civil Society

David Knott, Director of Office for Civil Society
Community Life Survey Update

Rosanna White
Statistician, DCMS
Background:

• The Community Life Survey (CLS) is a self completion survey of adults (16+) in England.

• The Survey is a key evidence source for government, covering community cohesion and engagement in England.
2001 - Citizenship Survey Commissioned by Home Office

2006 - Citizenship Survey moved to MHCLG

2010-11 - Citizenship Survey decommissioned

2012-13 - Community Life Survey Commissioned by Cabinet Office

2013-14 - Online/postal testing begins

2016-17 - Move to DCMS, Survey moved to self-completion
What’s included in the survey?
• Identity and social networks
• Your Community
• Civil Engagement
• Volunteering
• Social Action
• Subjective Wellbeing
Latest News
July 2017: Published first full year of online survey

October 2017: Contributed to race disparity audit

December 2017: Start of National Statistics assessment

January 2018: Questionnaire review
Feeling of belonging to Britain

The main facts and figures show that:
- A high percentage (between 79% to 85%) of White, Black, Asian and Mixed race adults felt strongly they belonged to Britain over the period studied.

Feeling of belonging strongly to Britain by ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of people who felt they belong strongly to Britain by ethnicity
Push to Web Methodology
2001 - Citizenship Survey Commissioned by Home Office

2006 - Citizenship Survey Moved to DCLG

2010-11 - Citizenship Survey decommissioned

2012-13 - Community Life Survey Commissioned by Cabinet Office

2013-14 - Online/postal testing begins

2016-17 - Moved to DCMS

Survey moved to self-completion
Why change?

• Cost saving

• Increased sample size

• Increased survey capability

• Reduced interview bias

• Avoids the need to cluster the sample
Issues considered

- Within household sampling
- Sample size/ response rates
- Incentives
- Profile of web sample compared with face to face
- Change in time series/ responses
Testing

• Testing conducted between 2013-2016 by Kantar Public

• Included within house sampling, incentives and mode and sample effects

• Full details of testing published on gov.uk

• Within household sampling
Current Methodology

• Sample of over 27,000 addresses are sent a letter asking up to 4 adults (16+) to take part and offered £10 conditional incentive.

• If no response, two reminder letters are sent.

• Sub sample of non-respondents given paper questionnaire in second reminder.

• Data cleaning.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Self-completion</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Paper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>5,105</td>
<td>10,215*</td>
<td>9,387</td>
<td>828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>2,022</td>
<td>2,323*</td>
<td>2,226</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>3,027</td>
<td>3,256*</td>
<td>2,233</td>
<td>1,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,256</td>
<td>7,365</td>
<td>2,891</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*collected for methodological purposes

## Response rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Online/ paper</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Additional due to paper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>27-28%</td>
<td>25-26%</td>
<td>1%-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2016/17 Findings
Feeling of belonging to Neighbourhood & Britain

Adults feeling they belong to Britain and their immediate neighbourhood; face-to-face and online/paper, 2005 to 2016-17

- Belong strongly to their neighbourhood
- Belong strongly to Britain

Face to face
Online/paper
Volunteering

Formal, informal and any volunteering, at least once a year

[Graph showing trends in volunteering from 2001 to 2016-17, with categories for Any Volunteering, Informal Volunteering, and Formal Volunteering, and subcategories for Face to face and Online/paper.]
Formal, informal and any volunteering at least once a month

![Graph showing trends in volunteering over time, including formal, informal, and any volunteering at least once a month. The graph includes data from 2001 to 2017, with a decline in the percentage of people volunteering over time, particularly in formal volunteering. The graph also indicates that online/paper volunteering has increased in recent years.](image-url)
Well-being

Average rating of well-being; face-to-face and online/paper, 2012-13 to 2016-17

Satisfaction

Worthwhile

Happiness

Anxiety
Charitable Giving

Proportion who gave to charity 4-weeks prior to their survey; face-to-face and online/paper, 2005 to 2016-17

%
What’s coming up?

• Review of publication tables/ bulletin

• Roll out of ‘focus on’ report

• Continue to optimise methodology while maintaining time series

• Consider options to improve mobile phone accessibility

• Additional analysis of impact of moving online
Community Life Survey 2016-2017

Headline Findings:

- In 2015-17, around a fifth (22%) of adults said they had taken part in formal volunteering at least once a month. When looking at all volunteering (formal and informal), nearly two thirds of adults (63%) had engaged at least once a year.

- Three quarters (75%) of adults said they had given to charity in the four weeks prior to completing the survey. The average amount given was £22.

- In 2015-16, 65% of respondents felt that they belonged very or fairly strongly to Britain compared to 62% who felt they belonged to their neighbourhood.

- Levels of community cohesion remained consistent with previous years. With four out of five respondents (81%) agreeing that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together.

We welcome feedback on the Community Life Survey and we are keen to identify our user base so we can ensure these statistics meet users’ needs. Please contact us at evidence@culture.gov.uk if you would like to be kept up to date with developments to the survey or if you have any comments or suggestions on this release.

The Community Life Survey is a survey of adults (16+) in England that explores levels of community cohesion and engagement. This report summarises the results from the 2016-17 survey, which was run from August 2016 to March 2017. This is the first year that the annual results have been based on data collected using a self-completion online/paper questionnaire rather than via a face to face interview.

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Media enquiries:
020 7211 2210

Date: 25 July 2017

Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction 2
Chapter 2: Volunteering 3
Chapter 3: Charitable Giving 5
Chapter 4: Civic Engagement and Social Action 6
Chapter 5: Community Decisions 8
Chapter 6: Neighbourhood and Community 10
Chapter 7: Well-being 14
Annex A: Methodology 16

Bulletin: High level findings
### Table 1: Participation in civic engagement and voluntary activities, England 2001 to 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civic participation</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic consultation</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic activism</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal volunteering</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal volunteering</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any volunteering</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Notes

- Data collected through the Citizenship Survey.
- Civic participation and civic consultation at least once a month.
- * denotes that some data is not available.
"Ready Reckoner" to test statistical significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure A</th>
<th>Figure B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey Year</td>
<td>2013-14 online/postal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondents</td>
<td>10,275</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistically significant difference: Different
• CSV file


• Data available through UK Data Service

https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/
We would like to introduce “Focus on” reports, which are currently produced for the taking part survey.
Optimising Methodology

• Keeping up to date with best practice
• Mode vs Sample effects
• Maintaining time series
• Online Survey Group
• Mobile phone accessibility
Useful Links

Community life 2016/17 publication documents:

Previous publications and testing documentation:

Department website:
https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-digital-culture-media-sport

Contact details:
Rosanna.white@culture.gov.uk
User Perspective

Karl Wilding, NCVO
Breakout Session
1. How do you use the data?
   (e.g. to inform policy, research, interested in the methodology, specific topic areas)

2. Are there any topics covered by the survey you are particularly interested in? (e.g. Volunteering, wellbeing, civic engagement)

3. Which form of dissemination methods are useful to you and which are less helpful?
   (e.g. infographics, data tables, CSV files, interactive tools, bulletin, open data, focus reports)

4. Any other comments or suggestions for the future?