



Community Life Survey:

August 2012 – April 2013

Statistical Bulletin

This release provides headline findings from the Community Life Survey. This is the data from all quarters of the 2012-13 survey combined (quarters 2,3 and 4), which covers August 2012 to April 2013. The findings presented here are broken down into sections covering trust, neighbourhood, civic engagement, volunteering and charitable giving. This release provides an overview covering key areas from the Community Life Survey, with further analysis to be released in due course.

The Community Life Survey incorporates key measures from the previous Citizenship Survey (run by the Department for Communities and Local Government), in order that trends in such measures can be tracked over time. Where applicable, time series data is included in this release and accompanying outputs.

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Headline Findings

Trust

- In August 2012-April 2013, 41 per cent of people thought that most people could be trusted, a significant decrease from 43 per cent in 2010-11.

Neighbourhood

- Nearly half of people (49%) agreed that they borrow things and exchange favours with their neighbours.

Nearly eight in ten people (78%) had a strong sense of belonging to their neighbourhood, unchanged from 2010-11 but significantly higher than levels between 2003 and 2007-08 and in 2009-10.

Eighty four per cent of people were satisfied with their local area as a place to live, significantly lower than 2010-11 levels (86%) but significantly higher than levels in 2008-09.

Sixty two per cent felt that people in their neighbourhood pulled together to improve the neighbourhood, a significant decrease from 67 per cent in 2010-11.

Nearly nine in ten people (86%) said they lived in an area where people from different backgrounds get on well together, no significant change from 2010-11 but significantly higher than levels between 2003 and 2008-09.

Civic engagement

- Almost one in five (18%) had taken part in some form of civic consultation about local services or problems in the last year, with 2 per cent of people engaging in some form of civic consultation at least once a month.

Just under half (47%) of people said they would like to be more involved in decisions made by their local council, a significant increase from 44 per cent in 2010-11.

Volunteering, charitable giving and social action

- Seventy two per cent of people had volunteered at least once in the last 12 months, with 44 per cent of people volunteering formally and 62 per cent volunteering informally, significant increases from 2010-11 (65%, 39% and 55% respectively). Just under half (49%) of people had volunteered at least once a month in the past year, a significant increase from 41 per cent in 2010-11.

74 per cent of people had given money to charity in the four weeks prior to being interviewed, a significant increase from 72 per cent in 2010-11.

In January-April 2013, just under a quarter of people (23%) had been involved in social action at least once in the last year. Around seven in ten people (68%) were aware of social action happening in their local area.

Trust

In August 2012-April 2013, a third (33%) of people trusted Parliament either 'a lot' or 'a fair amount'. This has fallen from 36 per cent in 2010-11 but is significantly higher than the level in 2009-10 (29%).

In the same time period, 63 per cent of people said they trusted their local council, not significantly different to 2010-11 but significantly higher than levels from 2001 to 2008-09. Eighty-four percent of people trusted the police, unchanged from 2010-11.

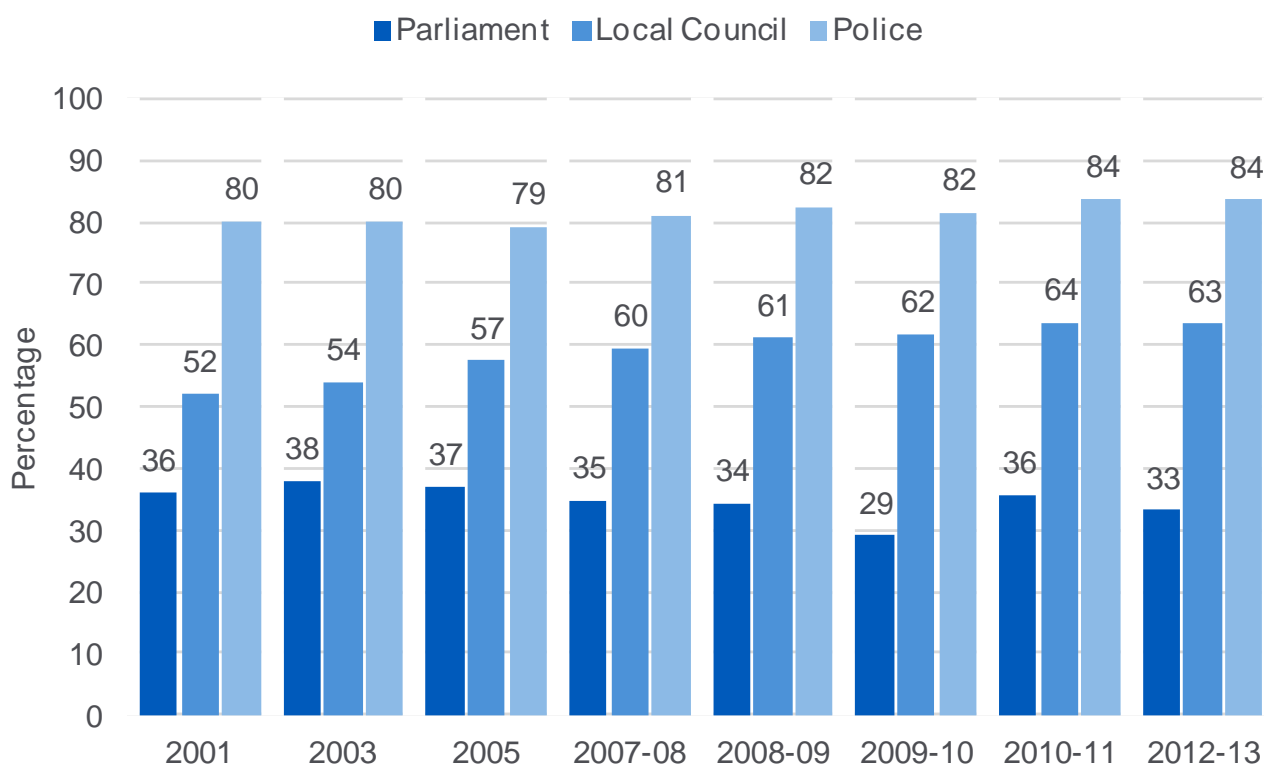


Figure 1: Proportion of people who trust institutions 'a lot' or 'a fair amount', 2001 to August 2012-April 2013

Forty-one per cent of people said that most people can be trusted, lower than in 2010-11 when this level was 43 per cent, but at a similar level to all other previous years.

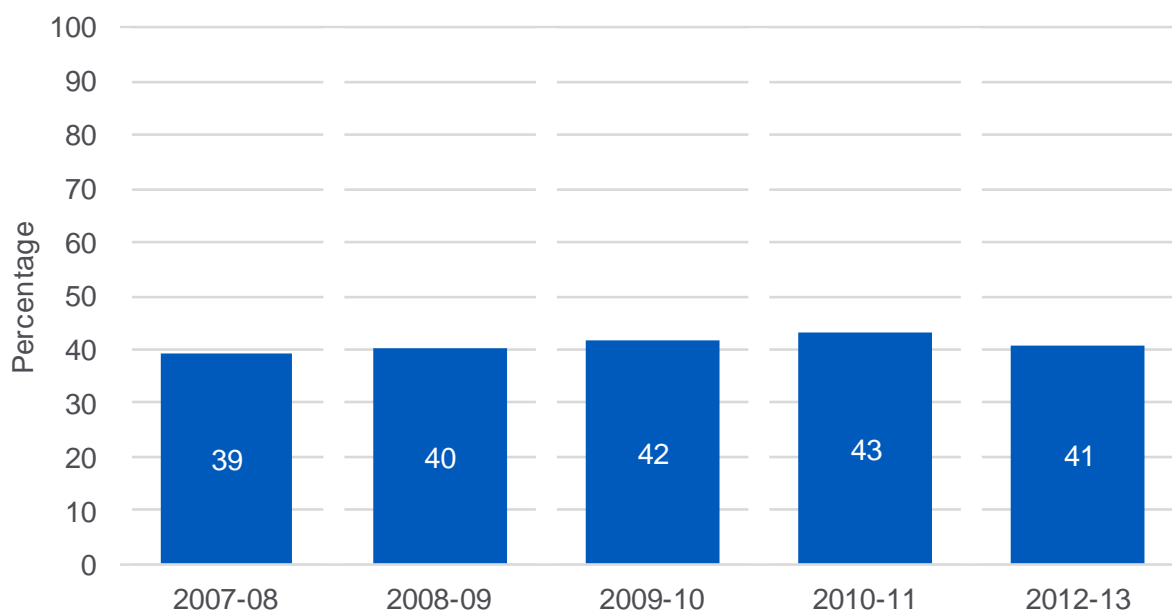


Figure 2: Proportion of people who feel that most people can be trusted, 2007-08 to August 2012-April 2013

Table 1: Trust in institutions (a lot or a fair amount) and in people in general, 2001 to August 2012-April 2013

Neighbourhood

Neighbourliness

In August 2012-April 2013, just under half of people (49%) agreed that they borrow things and exchange favours with their neighbours, with 21 per cent of people definitely agreeing with this statement.

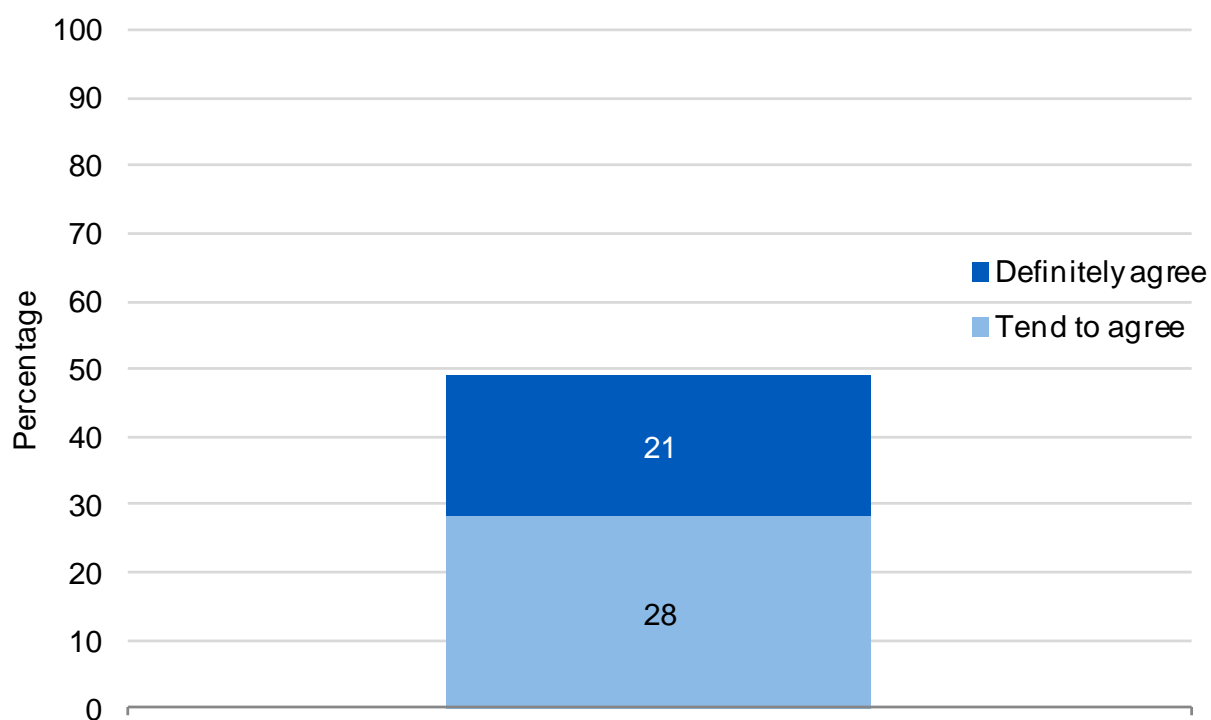


Figure 3: Proportion of people who agree that they borrow things and exchange favours with their neighbours, August 2012-April 2013

In October 2012-April 2013¹, 80 per cent of people said that they chat to their neighbours at least once a month, more than just to say hello.

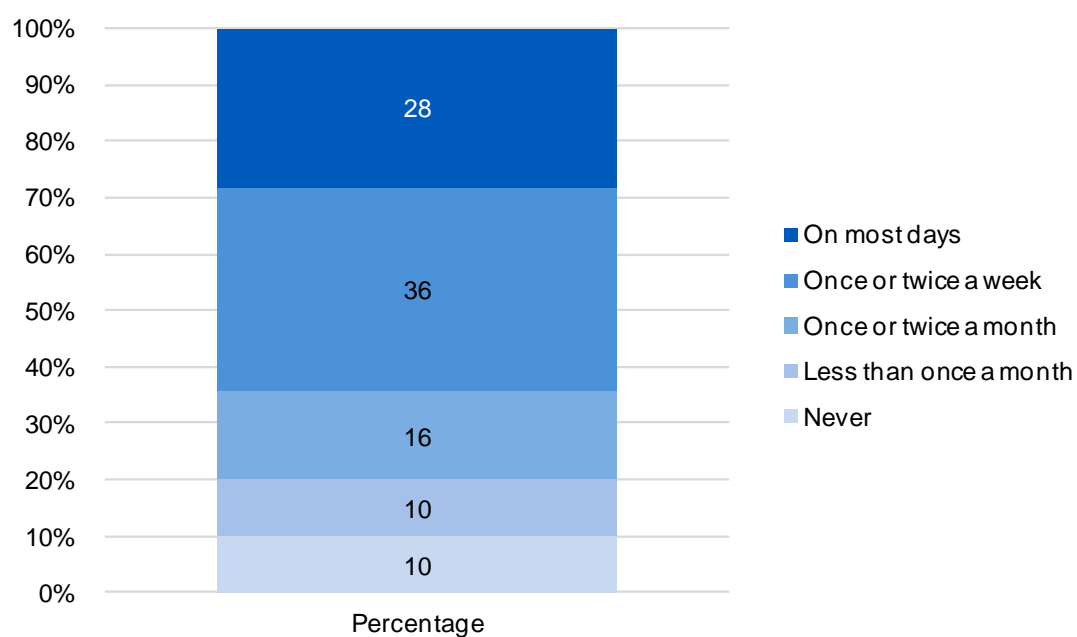


Figure 4: Frequency with which people chat to their neighbours, October 2012-April 2013

Table 3: Whether people chat to their neighbours at least once a month by sex, age and ethnicity, October 2012-April 2013

¹ Question added in Q3 2012-13

In August 2012-April 2013, 62 per cent of people agreed that people in their neighbourhood pull together to improve the neighbourhood. This has fallen from 67 per cent in 2010-11.

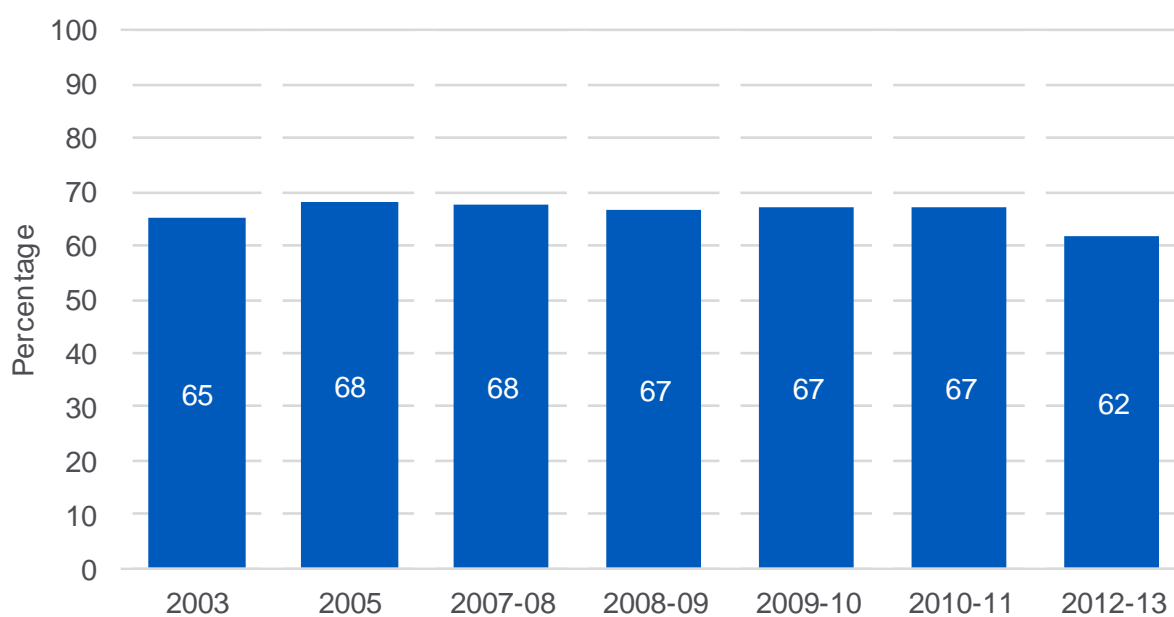


Figure 5: Proportion of people who agree that people in their neighbourhood pull together to improve the neighbourhood, 2003 to August 2012-April 2013

The proportion of people who 'definitely agree' that people in their neighbourhood pull together remained broadly unchanged from 2010-11 whilst the proportion of people who 'tend to agree' significantly decreased from 47 per cent in 2010-11 to 43 per cent in August 2012-April 2013.

The proportion of people who 'tend to disagree' increased from 23 per cent in 2010-11 to 26 per cent in August 2012-April 2013, whilst the proportion of people who 'definitely disagree' also increased from 9 per cent to 13 per cent.

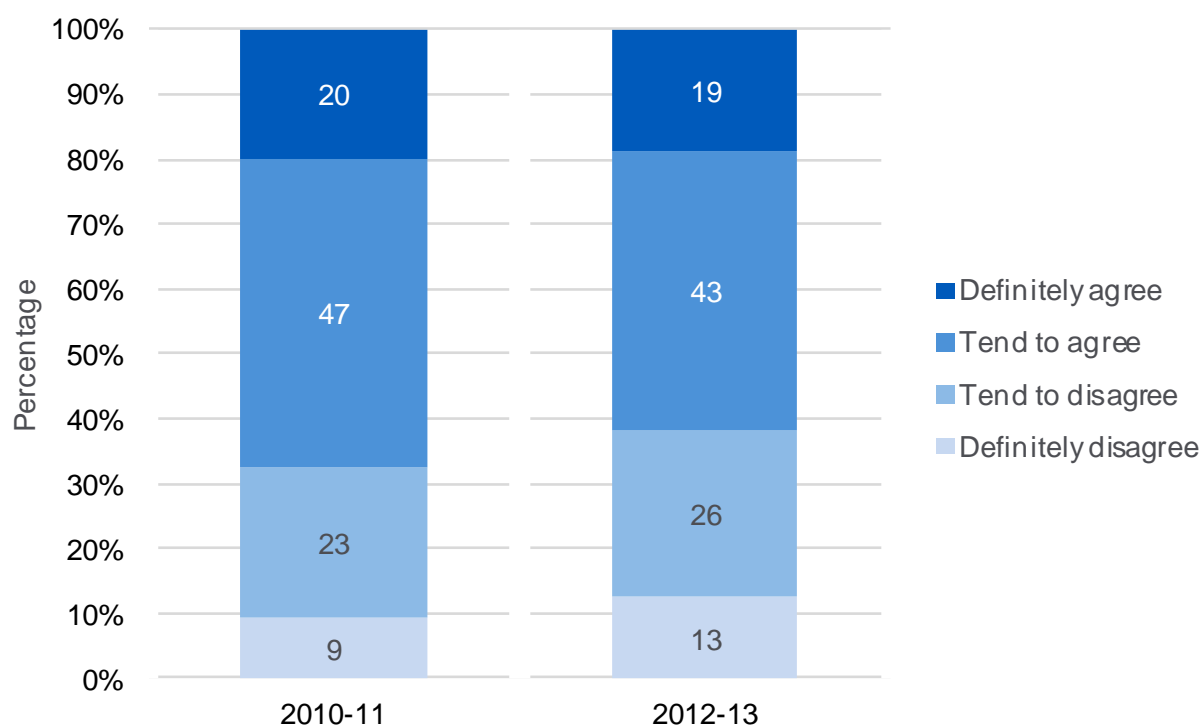


Figure 6: Extent to which people agree that people in their neighbourhood pull together to improve the neighbourhood, 2010-11 to August 2012-April 2013

- Table 2: Extent to which people in the neighbourhood pull together to improve the neighbourhood, 2003 to August 2012-April 2013

In August 2012-April 2013, fifteen per cent of people thought that their local area had got better. Two-thirds of people (67%) thought that their local area had not changed much over the past two years and 18 per cent thought it had got worse. These levels are broadly unchanged from 2010-11. However since 2008-09, the proportion of people thinking that their local area had got worse over the last two years has significantly decreased from 25 per cent to 18 per cent whilst the proportion saying it had not changed much had significantly increased from 60 per cent to 67 per cent.

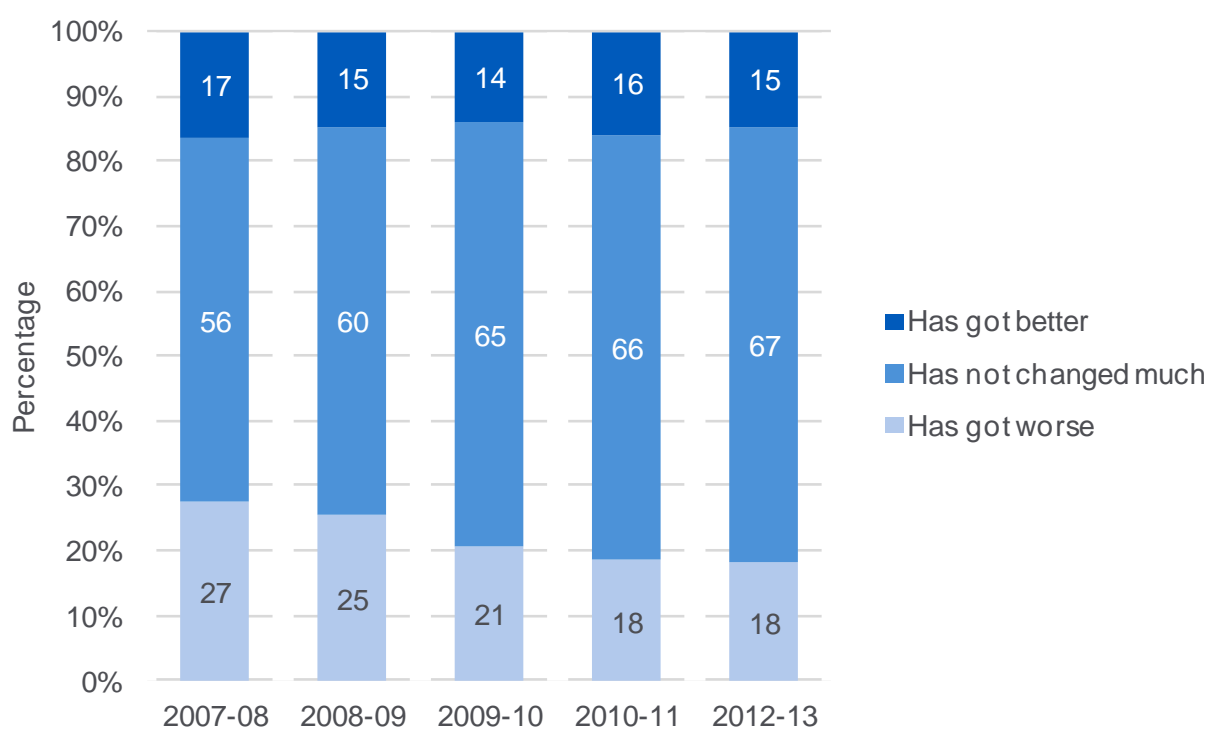


Figure 7: Proportion of people who think their local area has got better, worse or stayed the same over the last two years, 2007-08 to August 2012-April 2013

Belonging

In August 2012-April 2013, 78 per cent of people felt that they belonged strongly to their neighbourhood. This consisted of 36 per cent of people who felt they belonged 'very strongly' to their neighbourhood and 43 per cent² who belonged 'fairly strongly'. The proportion of people who belonged strongly (either 'very' or 'fairly') to their neighbourhood remained at the same level as 2010-11, but significantly increased from levels in 2003 to 2007-08 and 2009-10.

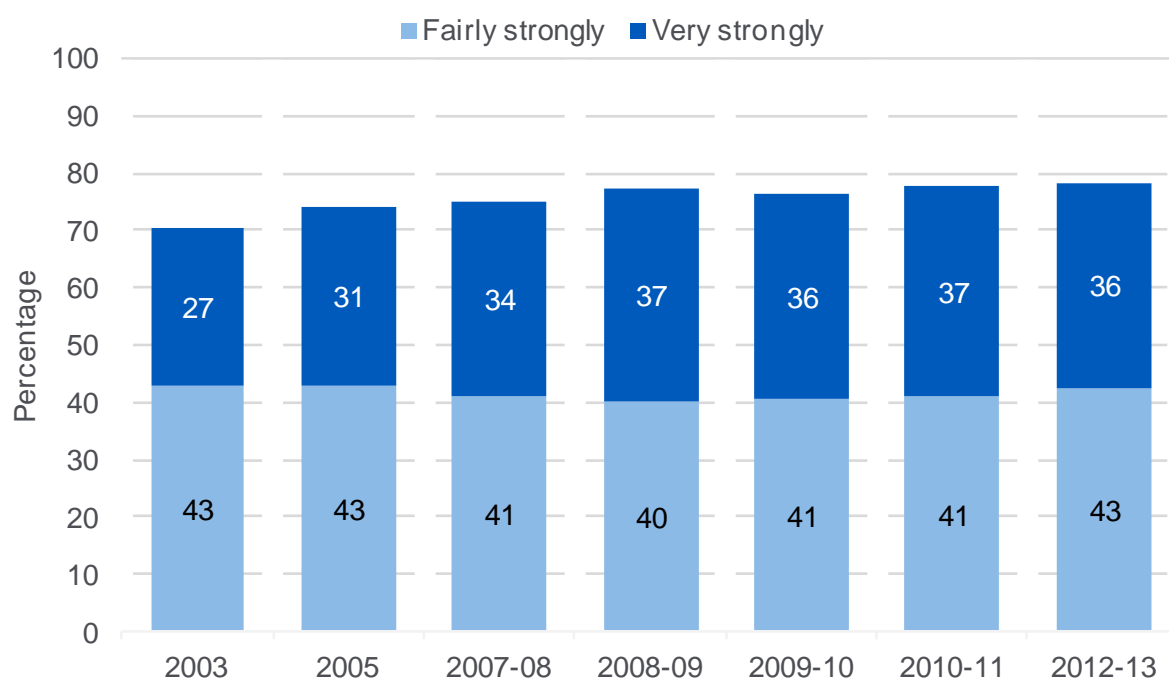


Figure 8: Proportion of people who feel they belong strongly to their neighbourhood, 2003 to August 2012-April 2013

² Numbers may not always add up to totals shown due to rounding

In August 2012-April 2013, 87 per cent of people felt that they belonged strongly to Britain, broadly the same level as in 2010-11. Fifty five percent of people said that they belonged 'very strongly' to Britain, a significant increase from 51 per cent in 2010-11.

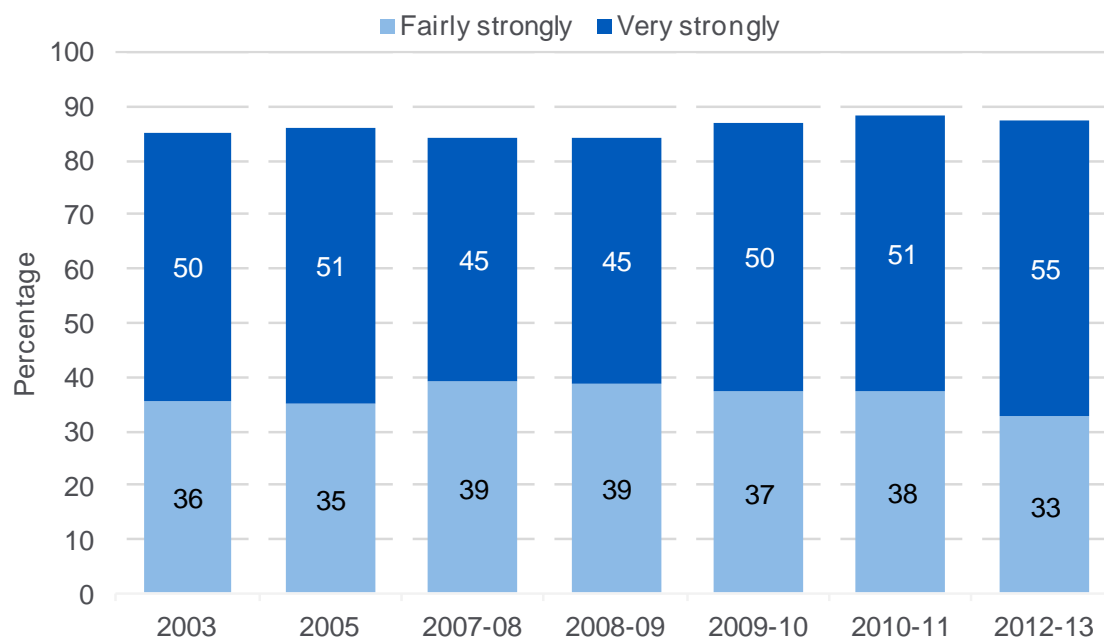


Figure 9: Proportion of people who feel they belong strongly to Britain, 2003 to August 2012-April 2013

Seventy-seven per cent of people felt that they belonged strongly to their local area. Whilst this has not changed since 2010-11, levels have significantly increased from 2008-09 (72%).

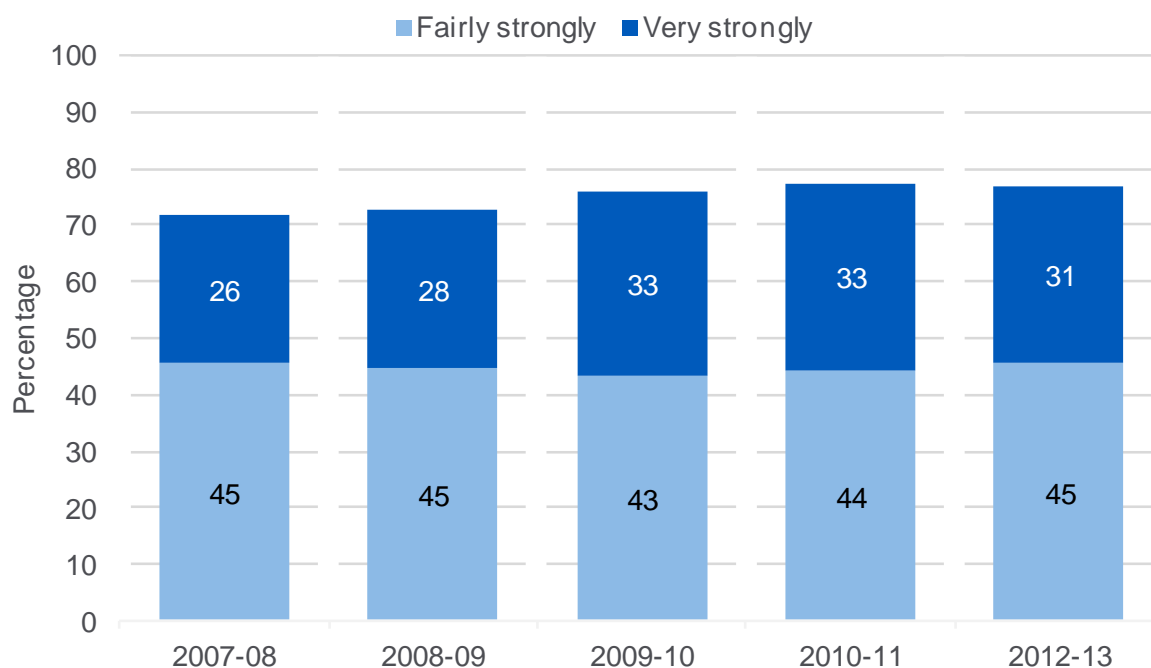


Figure 10: Proportion of people who feel they belong strongly to their local area, 2007-08 to August 2012-April 2013

- Table 4: Whether people feel that they belong strongly to their neighbourhood, local area and Britain, 2003 to August 2012-April 2013
- Table 5: Whether people feel that they belong strongly to their neighbourhood, local area and Britain, by sex, age and ethnicity, 2009-10 to August 2012-April 2013

Satisfaction with local area

In August 2012-April 2013, 84 per cent of people were either 'very' or 'fairly' satisfied with their local area as a place to live. This has significantly decreased from 86 per cent in 2010-11 but is significantly higher than the 2008-09 level of 82 per cent.

Thirty nine per cent of people said they were 'very satisfied' with their local area as a place to live. This is broadly the same level as seen in 2010-11 but has significantly increased from levels in 2008-09 and 2009-10. Forty five per cent of people said they were 'fairly satisfied' with their local area as a place to live. This is also at a similar level to 2010-11 but has significantly decreased from levels in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

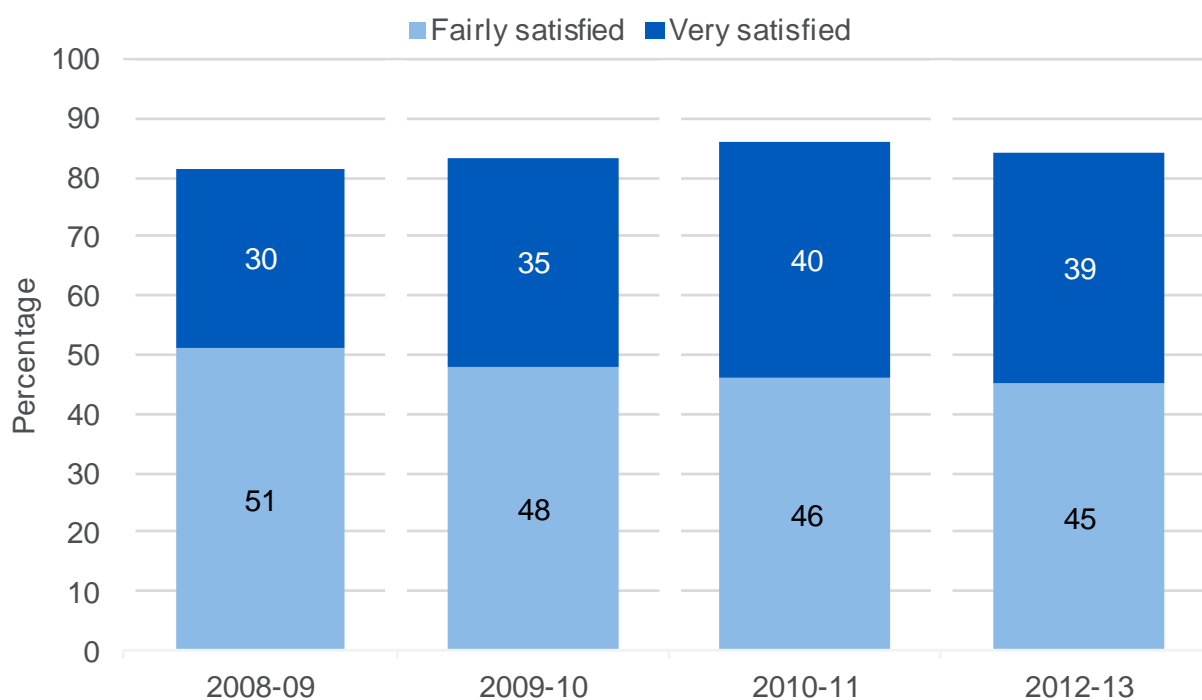


Figure 11: Proportion of people who are satisfied with their local area as a place to live, 2008-09 to August 2012-April 2013

- Table 6: Satisfaction with local area, by sex, age and ethnicity, 2008-09 to August 2012-April 2013

Community Cohesion

In August 2012-April 2013, 86 per cent of people thought that their community was cohesive, agreeing that their local area was a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. This is the same as the levels in 2010-11 and 2009-10 but significantly higher than all other previous years.

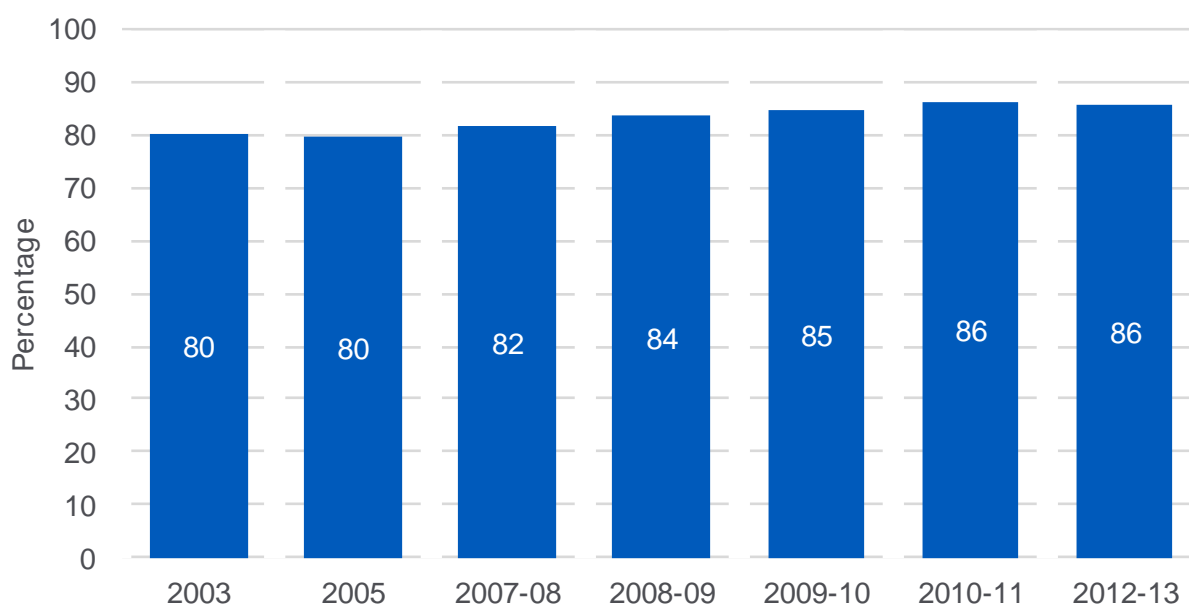


Figure 12: Proportion of people who agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together, 2003 to August 2012-April 2013

- Table 7: Community cohesion by sex, age, ethnicity and region, 2003 to August 2012-April 2013

Civic engagement

Influencing decisions

In August 2012-April 2013, 38 per cent of people felt that they could influence decisions affecting their local area, similar to previous years apart from in 2001 when this figure was significantly higher at 44 per cent. This is higher than the proportion of people who felt that they could influence decisions affecting Britain which stood at 22 per cent, unchanged from 2010-11 but significantly higher than the level in 2009-10.

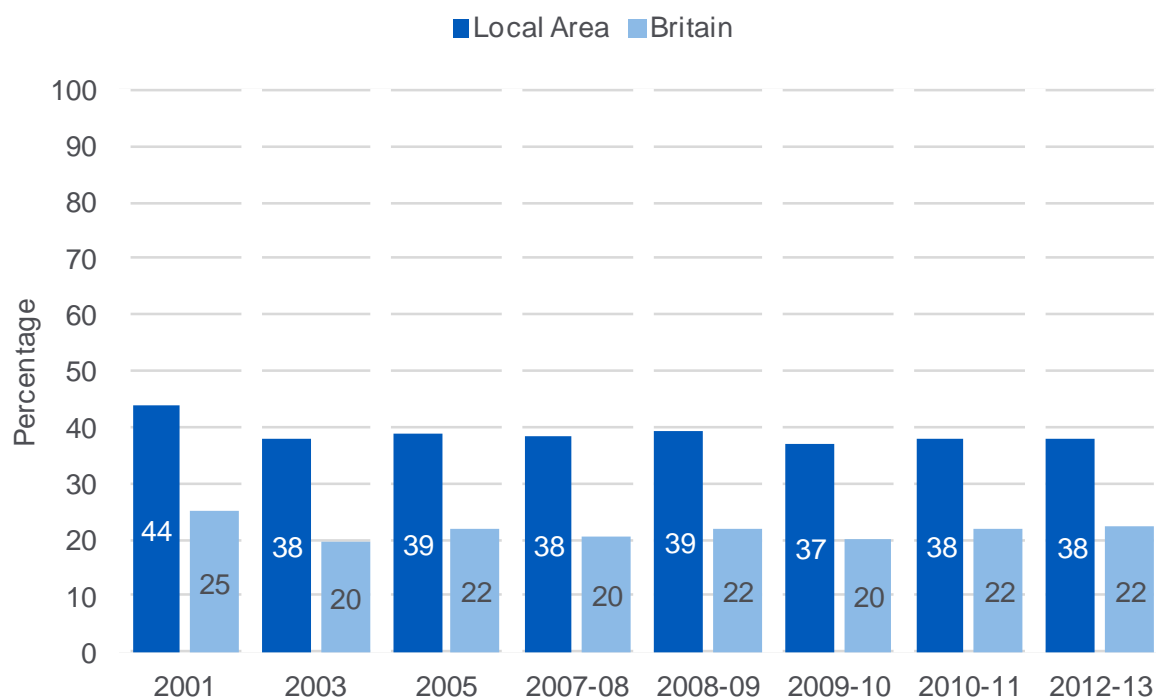


Figure 13: Proportion of people who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area and Britain, 2001 to August 2012-April 2013

- Table 8: Whether people feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area and Britain, 2001 to August 2012-April 2013
- Table 9: Whether people feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area and Britain, by sex, age and ethnicity, 2010-11 to August 2012-April 2013

In August 2012-April 2013, three quarters of people (75%) felt that it was important for them personally to feel that they could influence decisions in their local area. This level has remained broadly the same as in 2010-11 but shows a significant increase from the level seen in 2009-10 (73%) and a significant decrease from 2008-09 (78%).

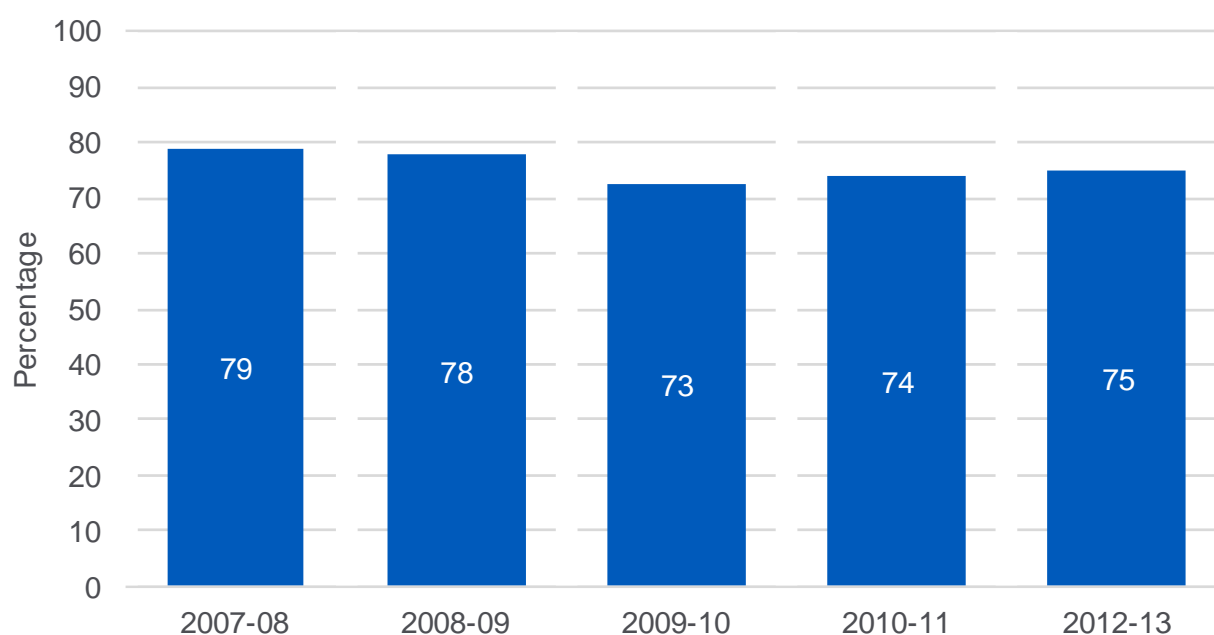


Figure 14: Proportion of people who think it is important to feel that they can influence decisions in their local area, 2007-08 to August 2012-April 2013

- Table 10: How important is it for you personally to feel you can influence decisions made in your local area, 2007-08 to August 2012-April 2013

Just under half of people in England (47%) said they would like to be more involved in decisions made by their local council, a significant increase from 44 per cent in 2010-11. Thirty-six per cent said they would not like to be more involved and 17 per cent said it would depend on the issue.

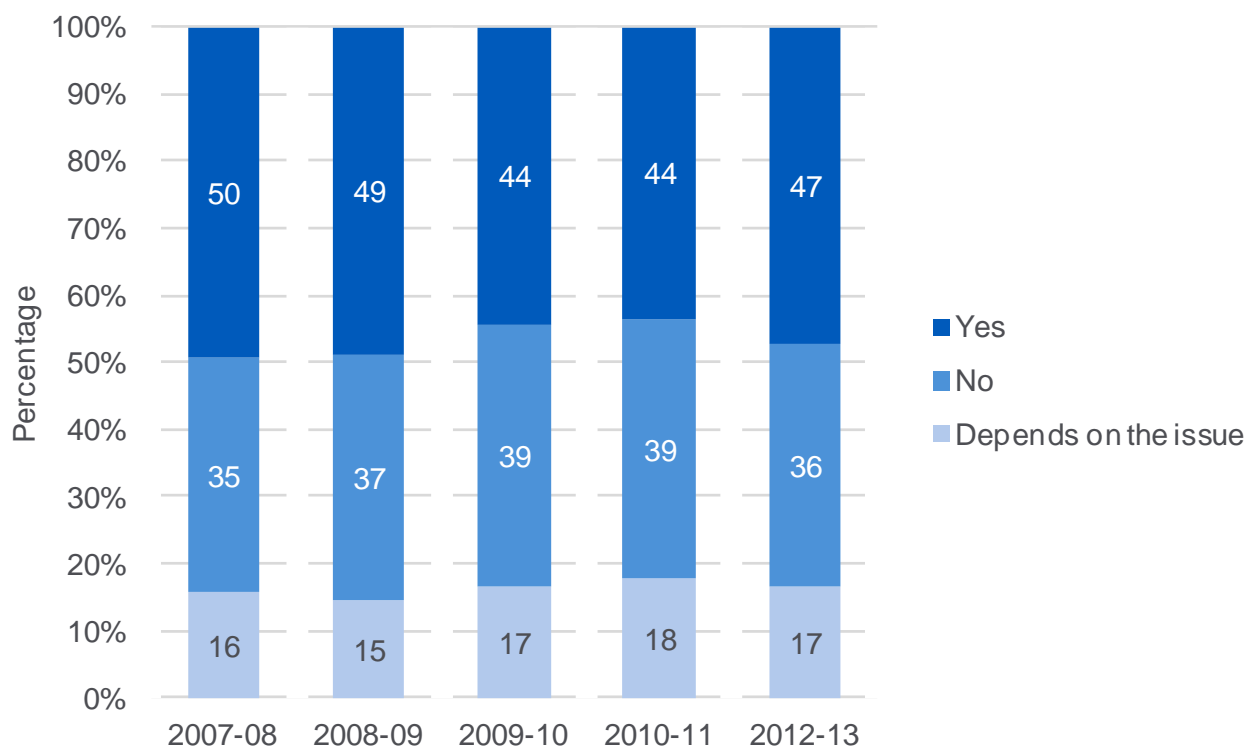


Figure 15: Whether people would like to be more involved in decisions made by the council affecting their local area, 2007-08 to August 2012-April 2013

- Table 11: Whether people would like to be more involved in decisions made by their local council, 2007-08 to August 2012-April 2013

Civic engagement

Civic engagement³ covers three measures captured within the survey:

Civic participation – engagement in democratic processes (both in person and online), such as contacting an elected representative or attending a public demonstration

Civic consultation – taking part in consultations about local services such as completing questionnaires, attending public meetings or being involved in discussion groups (both in person and online)

Civic activism – involvement in decision-making about local services or in the provision of these services (both in person and online) such as being a school governor or magistrate

Civic participation was the most common form of civic engagement in August 2012-April 2013, with 41 per cent of people engaging in some form of civic participation at least once in the 12 months prior to being interviewed. In August 2012-April 2013, 4 per cent of people had taken part in some form of civic participation at least once a month.

Just under one in five people (18%) took part in some form of **civic consultation** at least once in the 12 months prior to being interviewed in August 2012-April 2013, with 2 per cent of people engaging in some form of civic consultation at least once a month.

One in ten people (10%) had participated in some form of **civic activism** in the twelve months prior to being interviewed.

³ Civic engagement data is not comparable to Citizenship Survey data as the questions covering these measures were updated in the Community Life Survey to include online participation and are therefore not directly comparable

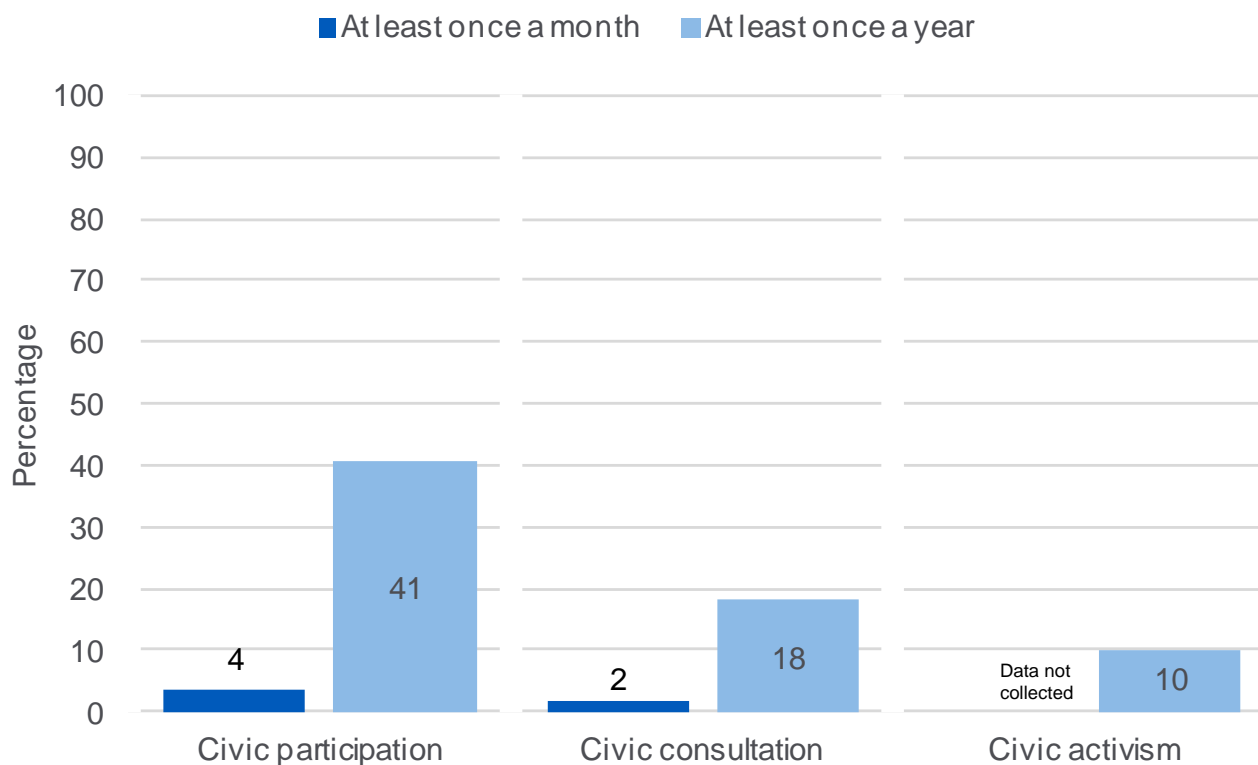


Figure 16: Whether people engaged in civic participation, civic consultation or civic activism, August 2012-April 2013

- Table 12: Participation in civic engagement and voluntary activities, 2001 to August 2012-April 2013

- Table 13: Participation in civic engagement and formal volunteering at least once in the last year, by sex, age, ethnicity and disability, 2007-08 to August 2012-April 2013

Volunteering

Volunteering covers two measures captured within the survey:

Formal volunteering – giving unpaid help through groups, clubs or organisations

Informal volunteering – giving unpaid help as an individual to people who are not relatives

Formal volunteering

Twenty nine per cent of people said they had volunteered formally at least once a month in the 12 months prior to being interviewed. This is a significant increase in the level seen in 2010-11 (25%) and in all years from 2007-08, having halted the downward trend seen since 2005.

In August 2012-April 2013, 44 per cent of people said that they had volunteered formally at least once in the last year prior to being interviewed. This has significantly increased from 39 per cent in 2010-11 and is also significantly higher than levels in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

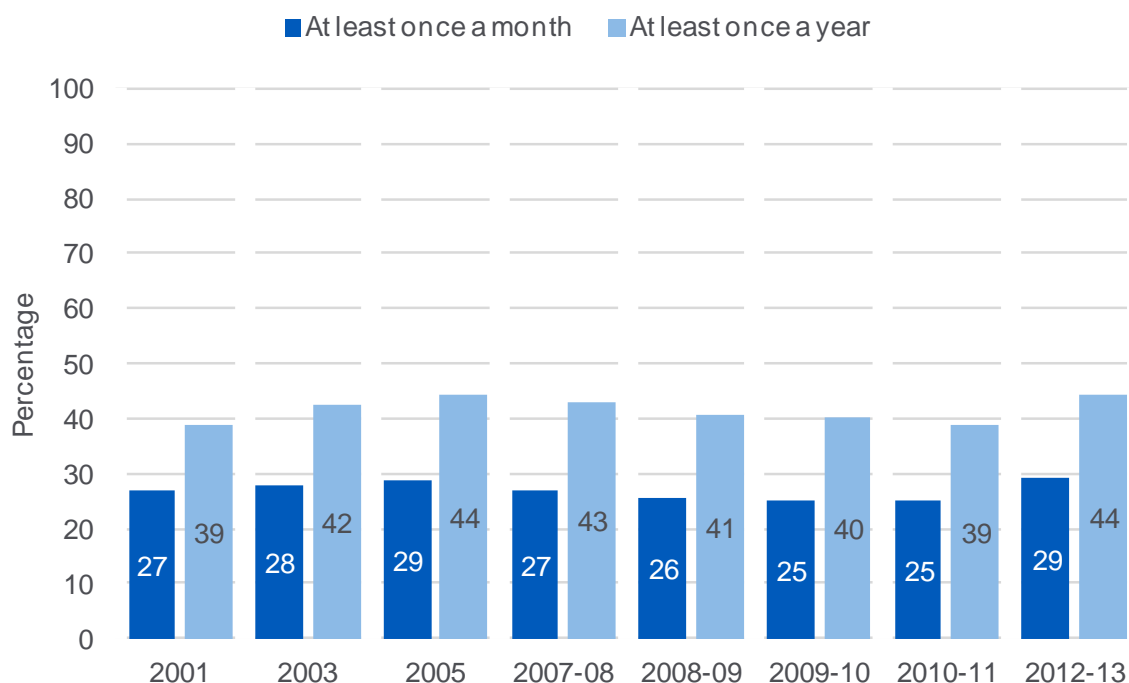


Figure 17: Whether people had participated in formal volunteering, 2001 to August 2012-April 2013

Informal volunteering

Just over a third (36%) of people said they had volunteered informally at least once a month in the 12 months prior to being interviewed. This has significantly increased from 29 per cent in both 2009-10 and 2010-11.

In August 2012-April 2013, 62 per cent of people said they had volunteered informally at least once in the last year prior to being interviewed. This has significantly increased from 55 per cent in 2010-11 and is also higher than the level seen in 2009-10 (54%).

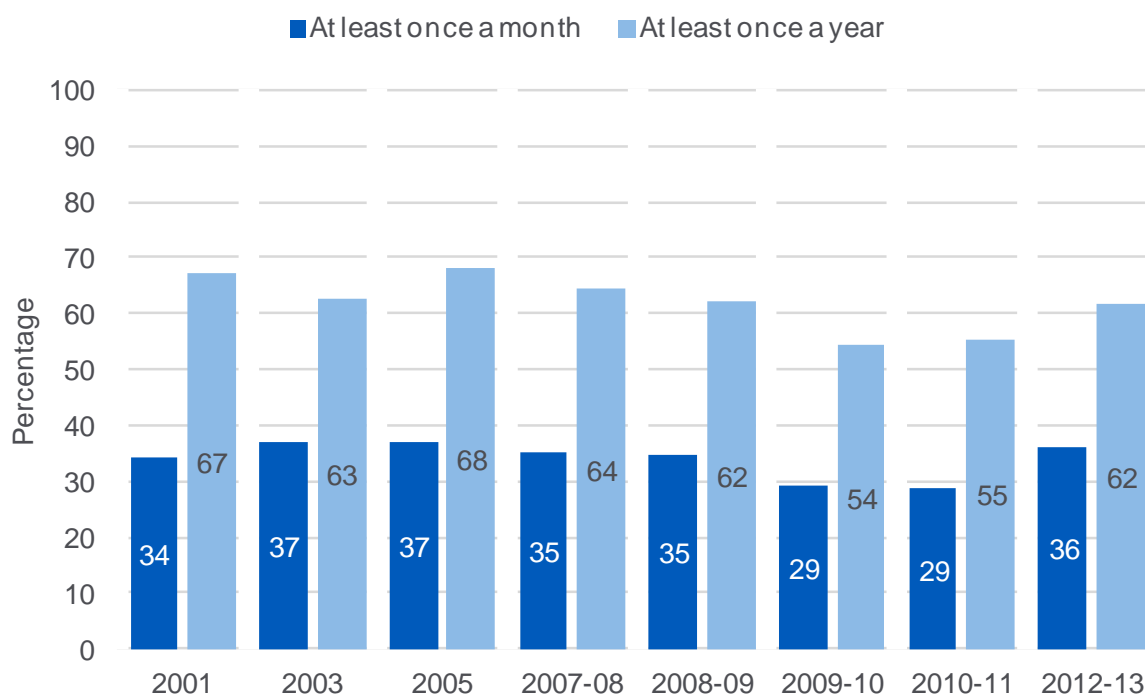


Figure 18: Whether people had participated in informal volunteering, 2001 to August 2012-April 2013

Any volunteering

Just under half of people (49%) participated in formal and/or informal volunteering at least once a month in the twelve months prior to being interviewed. This is significantly higher than levels seen in 2008-09 to 2010-11 (47%, 42% and 41% respectively).

In August 2012-April 2013, 72 per cent of people took part in formal and/or informal volunteering at least once in the twelve months prior to being interviewed. This is significantly higher than levels seen in 2009-10 and 2010-11 (66% and 65% respectively).

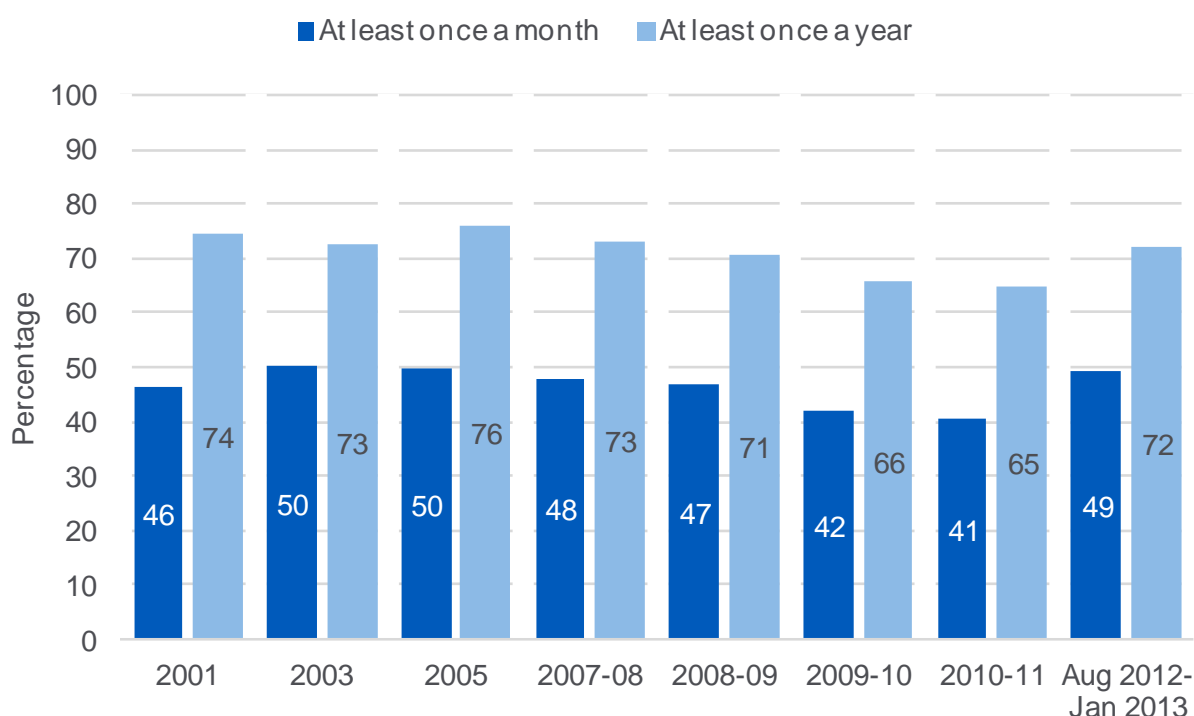


Figure 19: Whether people had participated in any volunteering, 2001 to August 2012-April 2013

Table 14: Participation in voluntary activities, by age, ethnicity, employment status and region, 2010-11 to August 2012-April 2013

Table 15: Participation in any voluntary activities, by sex, age and region, 2010-11 to August 2012-April 2013

Charitable Giving

In August 2012-April 2013, nearly three-quarters (74%) of people had given money to charity in the four weeks prior to being interviewed. This is significantly higher than levels seen in 2010-11, when 72 per cent of people had given money.

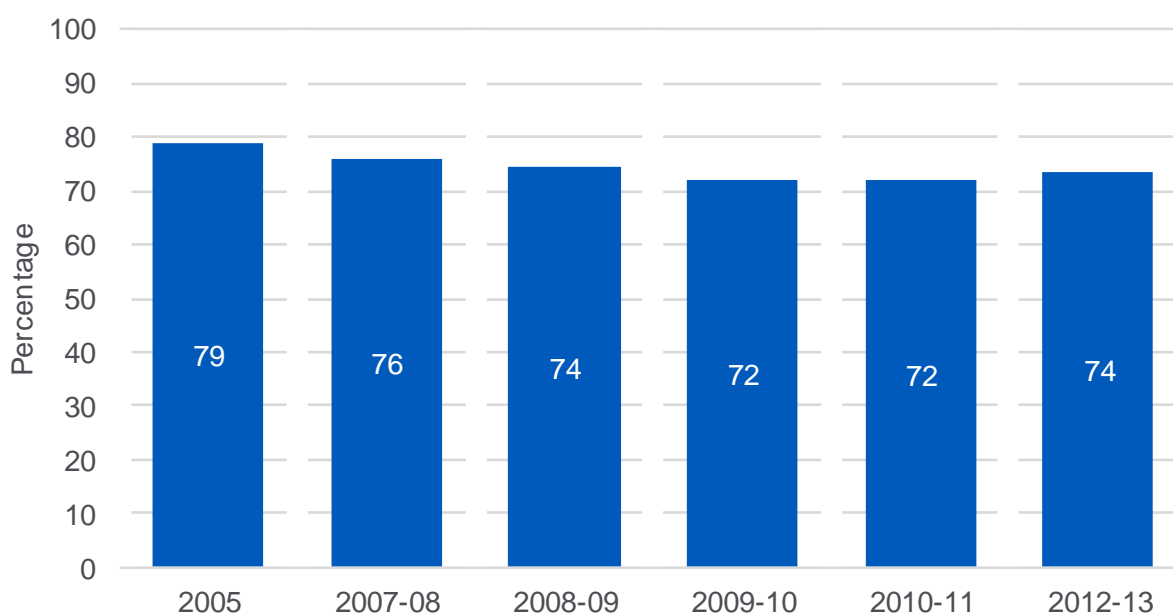


Figure 20: Whether people had given money to charity in the four weeks prior to being interviewed, 2005 to August 2012-April 2013

- Table 16: Charitable giving by sex, age and ethnicity, 2005 to August 2012-April 2013

In August 2012-April 2013, on average⁴ people gave £18.50 to charity in the four weeks prior to being interviewed, not significantly different to the adjusted⁵ figure for 2010-11.

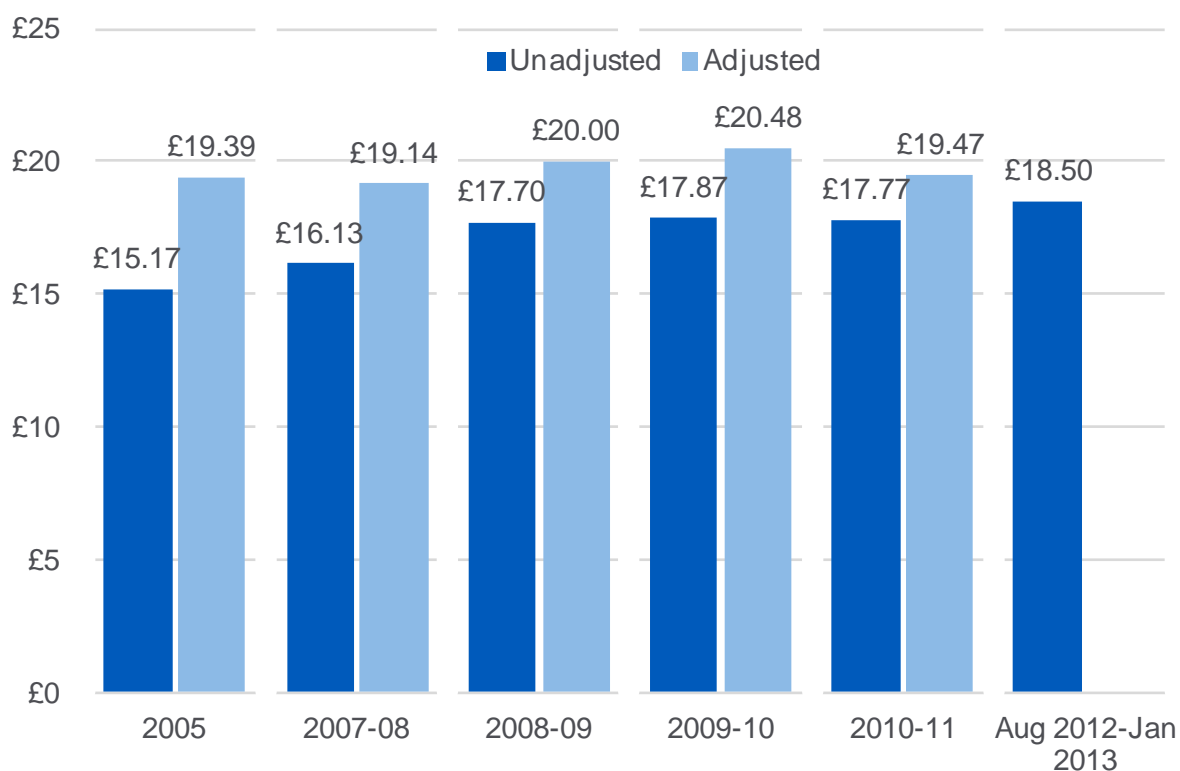


Figure 21: Average amount given to charity in the four weeks prior to interview, adjusted for inflation and unadjusted, 2005 to August 2012-April 2013

⁴ Average (mean) excludes those who gave £300 or more and those who responded 'don't know' or for whom the figure was missing

⁵ Inflation adjusted figures calculated using RPI measure of inflation

Fifty-eight per cent of those who gave money gave £10 or more, a significant increase on 2010-11 where this figure was 54 per cent⁶. Around one in ten people (11%) gave £50 or more.

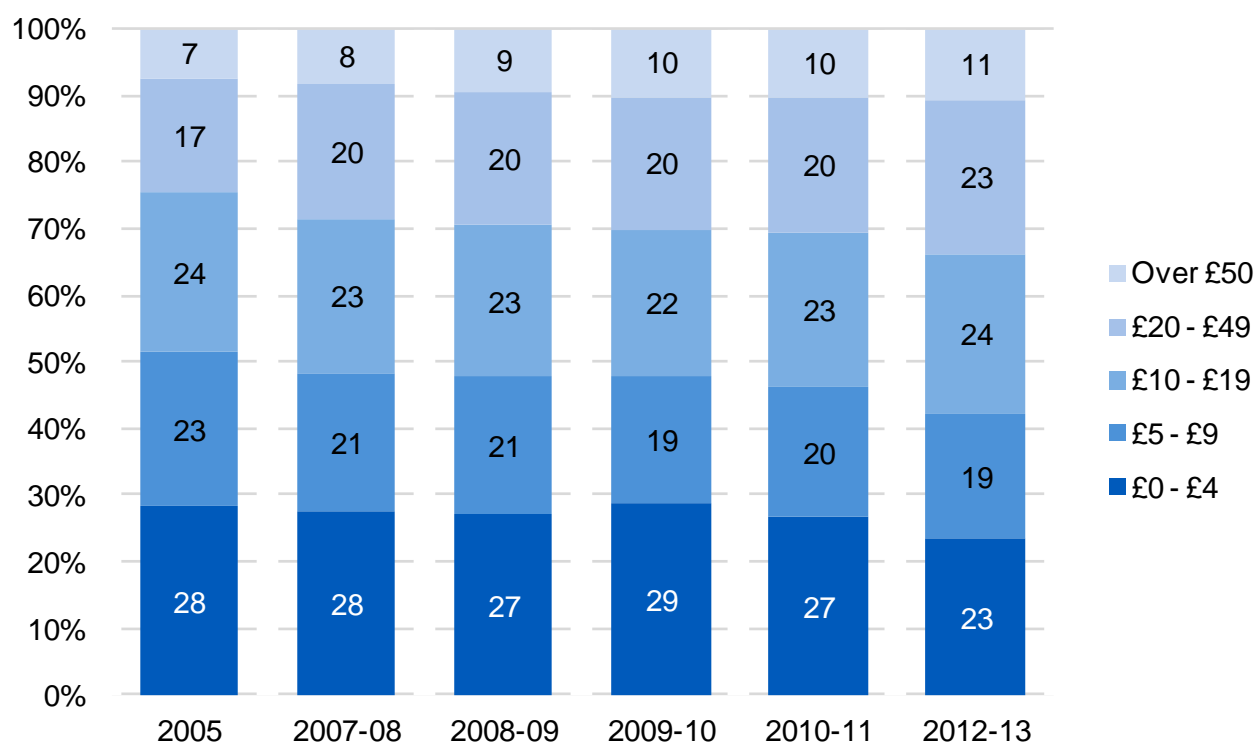


Figure 22: Amount given to charity in the four weeks prior to interview, 2005 to August 2012-April 2013

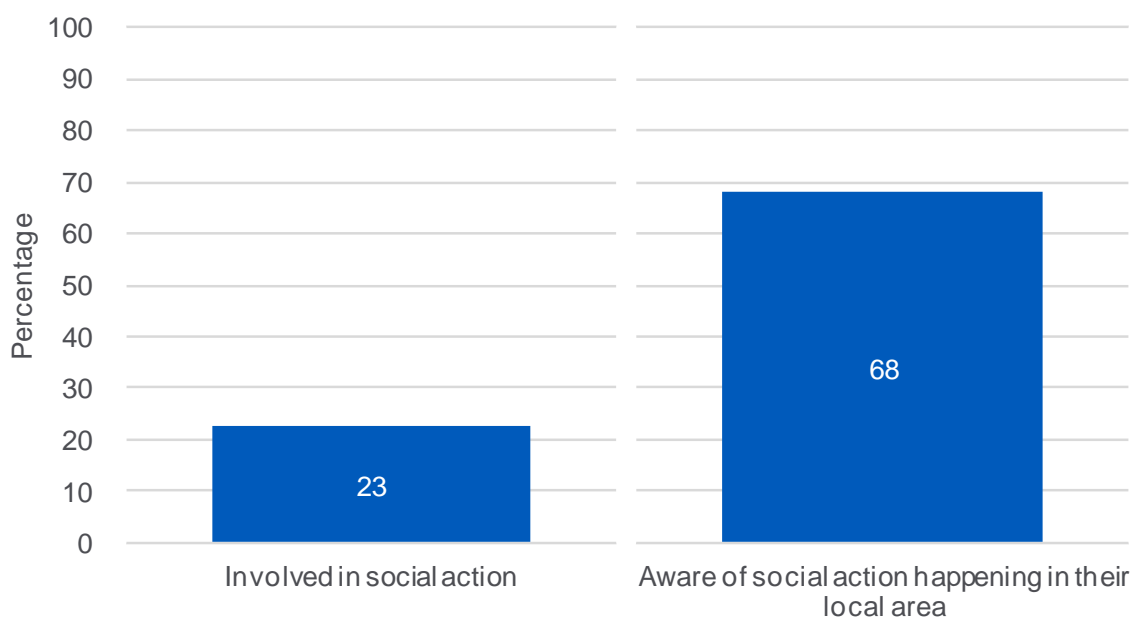
- Table 17: Amount given to charity in the past four weeks, 2005 to August 2012-April 2013

⁶ Unadjusted figures used prior to 2012-13

Social Action

Social action covers people getting together to support a community project with others in their local area, e.g. trying to set up a new service or amenity to help local residents, or organising a community event e.g. a street party.

In January-April 2013⁷, just under a quarter of people (23%) had been involved in social action at least once in the last year. Around seven in ten people (68%) were aware of people in their local area getting together to support a community project.



- Table 18: Whether people are aware of or involved in social action in their local area at least once in the last year by sex and age, 2012-13

⁷ Question added in Q4 2012-13

Well-being

In August 2012-April 2013, the average⁸ rating for overall life satisfaction was 7.5⁹. The average rating for whether people felt the things that they do in their lives are worthwhile was 7.8.

When asked about their day to day emotions, the average rating for 'happiness yesterday' was 7.3 and the average rating for 'anxiousness yesterday' was 2.9.

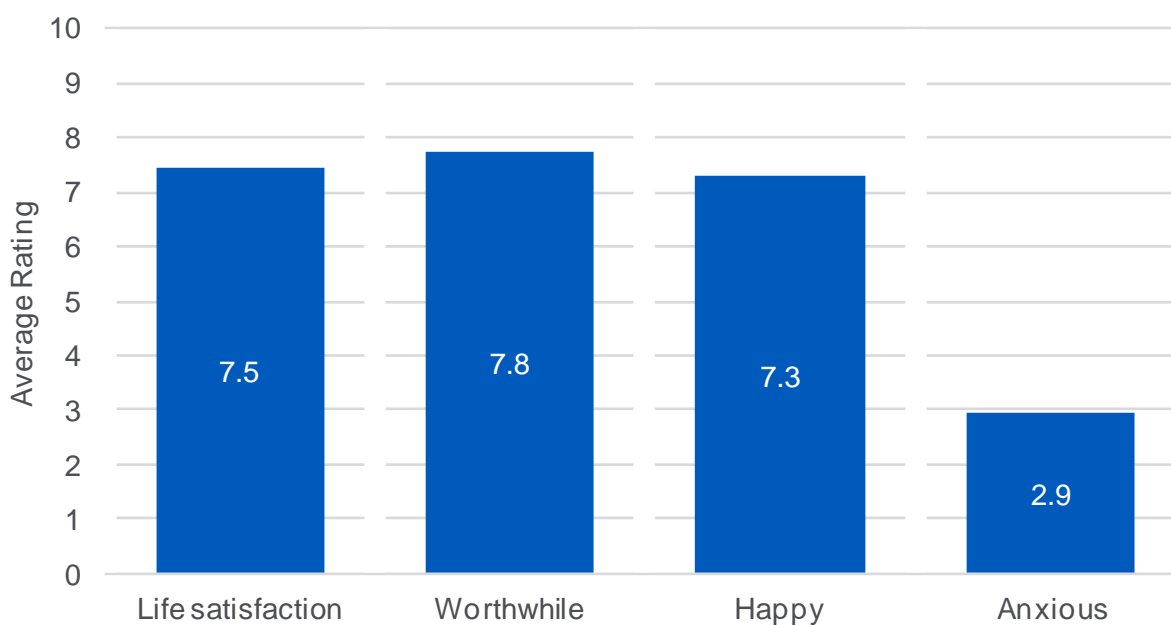


Figure 23: Average ratings for well-being measures, August 2012-April 2013

⁸ Average=mean

⁹ All measures use a 0 to 10 scale where 0 is 'not at all' and 10 is 'completely'

Annex A

Key terms and definitions

1. **Local area** – area within a 15-20 minute walk from home.
2. **Community cohesion** – local area (defined as 15-20 minutes walking distance) is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together.
3. **Civic engagement** – covers the following three separate measures:
 - **Civic participation** – engaging in one of the following activities:
 - contacting a local councillor, Member of Parliament, member of the Greater London Assembly
 - contacting a public official working for a local council, central Government, Greater London Assembly
 - attending a public meeting or rally
 - taking part in a public demonstration or protest
 - signing a petition (either paper petition or e-petition/online petition)
 - **Civic activism** – involvement (in person or online) either in direct decision-making about local services or issues, or in the actual provision of these services by taking on a role such as a local councillor, school governor or magistrate.
 - **Civic consultation** – active engagement (in person or online) in consultation about local services or issues through activities such as attending a consultation group or completing a questionnaire about these services.
4. **Formal volunteering** – giving unpaid help through groups, clubs or organisations.
5. **Informal volunteering** – giving unpaid help as an individual to people who are not relatives.
6. **Social action** – getting together with others to support a community project in the local area, e.g. trying to set up a new service or amenity to help local residents, or organising a community event e.g. a street party.

Content of Report

7. The quarterly Statistical Releases are designed to report on the key topic areas within the Community Life Survey and includes data supporting the Cabinet Office's and Other Government Departments' key priorities. However the Community Life Survey covers many other topics which cannot all be incorporated into a Release such as this, so the underlying data will be made available through the University of Essex data archive.
8. Anonymised data for the full survey year will be available to download through the University of Essex Data Archive (www.data-archive.ac.uk) in autumn 2013.

Background notes

9. The Community Life Survey is a new survey commissioned by the Cabinet Office and fieldwork for the survey is conducted by TNS-BMRB. It is a household survey covering a representative sample, which in 2012-13 will consist of 6,600 adults over three quarters, aged 16+ in England. The survey covers a range of topics including volunteering, charitable giving, social action, community cohesion and civic engagement.
10. The survey is carried out via face-to-face interviews. It has a continuous design which allows for headline findings to be published on a quarterly basis. This release cumulatively covers three quarters' worth of data, based on interviews carried out between August 2012 and April 2013 (referred to as Q4 2012-13). The total sample size for this period was 6,915. The median interview length was 32 minutes 15 seconds.
11. This release is an Official Statistic produced by the Cabinet Office to standards specified in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. More information can be found at <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf>.
12. In accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, the statistics in this release match up to the six dimensions of quality defined by the European Statistical System (ESS). These are relevance, accuracy, timeliness, accessibility, comparability and coherence. More information on these quality indicators will be available in the full technical report for the Community Life survey, which will be published in Summer 2013.

13. The data are weighted to ensure the representativeness of the Community Life sample by compensating for differences in sampling probabilities and non-response by sub-group. Weighting is based on 2001 census population figures in terms of age, sex and regional distribution.
14. For more information about the Cabinet Office's revision policy and how revisions are handled for the Community Life Survey, please see Cabinet Office's statement of compliance on our website at <http://communitylife.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/>
15. All differences and changes reported in the release, both between groups and over time, are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level, unless otherwise specified. This means that the probability of any observed change happening by chance is low (1 in 20). The number of respondents the percentage is based on and the percentage observed will affect whether an observed change is statistically significant or not. A 'ready reckoner' has been provided alongside the Excel tables which can be used to test for statistical significance between percentages in the tables at the 95% confidence level. An overall design factor of 1.3 has been applied to the dataset. More information on design factors will be available in the full technical report for the Community Life Survey, which will be published in Summer 2013.
16. The Community Life Survey incorporates key measures from the previous Citizenship Survey (run by the Department for Communities and Local Government), and has used a comparable methodology in order that trends in such measures can be tracked over time. Where applicable, time series data is included in this release and accompanying outputs. Any statistically significant differences are based on a comparison between 2012-13 and 2010-11 data unless otherwise specified. The Citizenship Survey was commissioned by the Department for Communities and Local Government and ran from 2001 to 2010-11 (more information can be found at <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120919132719/www.communities.gov.uk/communities/research/citizenshipsurvey/>).
17. The Cabinet Office has consulted with end users on a number of different issues to inform and shape the future of the survey. A written response to this consultation will be published in due course and will be available at <http://communitylife.cabinetoffice.gov.uk>

18. The statistical contact for this release is Rebecca Wyton. Any comments on issues relating to this release or the survey in general are welcomed – please contact us at:

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19. The fieldwork for this survey is being conducted by TNS-BMRB. More information can be found at <http://www.tns-bmr.co.uk>