



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport



Taking Part 2014/15, Focus on: Society



Statistical Release

November 2015



Introduction

This report

This report is one in a series of ten “Taking Part, Focus On” reports, presenting findings on the tenth year of the Taking Part survey (2014/15). Taking Part is a continuous face to face household survey of adults aged 16 years and over and children aged 5 to 15 years old in England. The series expands on and complements the Statistical Release published on 25th June 2015 that presented headline adult findings from the survey, covering April 2014 to March 2015. The “Focus On” series looks in more detail at specific topics, with each report covering one of the following areas:

- 1) Art forms
- 2) Sport
- 3) Heritage
- 4) Free time activities
- 5) Barriers to participation, disability
- 6) Society**
- 7) Wellbeing
- 8) Digital engagement
- 9) Newspaper readership
- 10) First World War Centenary

This *Focus On... Society* report looks at the wellbeing of adults: their happiness; anxiety; worthwhileness; and life satisfaction. It covers the national and local identity of different groups of the population, what makes them proud to be British and the things that are important to them in their local area. The report also looks at civic participation within the local community and participation in groups, clubs or organisations in the last 12 months.

Forthcoming releases

The next adult release, to be published on Thursday 17th December, will present data covering the period October 2014 – September 2015.

Future adult releases of Taking Part will be published every six months. The next biannual release is therefore scheduled for July 2016 and will present data covering the period April 2015 – March 2016. Future adult releases will follow a similar schedule, being released every six months in July and December.

In addition, another series of “Taking Part, Focus on...” reports will be published in April 2016. Like the current report, each ‘short story’ in this series will look at a specific topic in more detail, providing more in-depth analysis of the 2014/15 Taking Part data than seen in the biannual report.

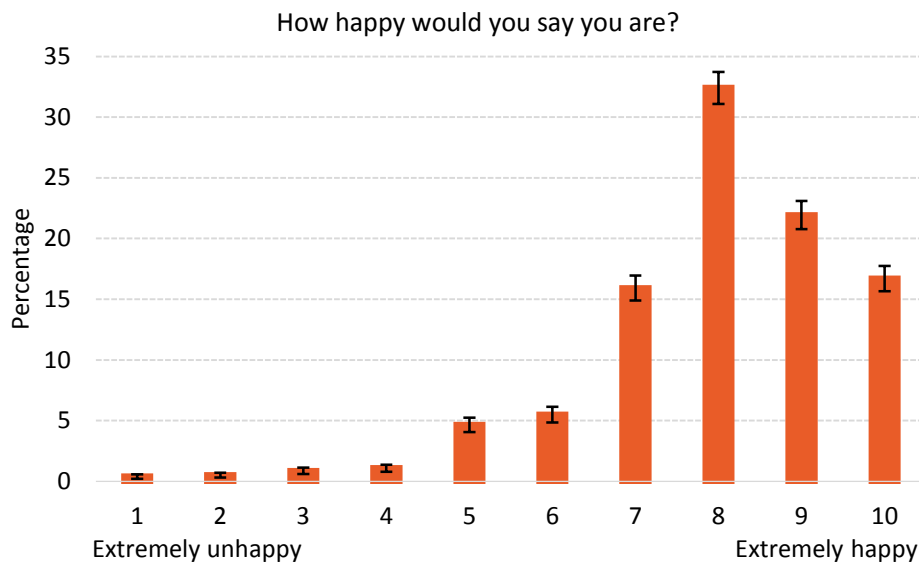
If you would like further information on these releases or the Taking Part survey, please contact the Taking Part team on TakingPart@culture.gov.

Well-being

In 2014/15 adults responding to the Taking Part survey were asked four questions relating to their well-being: how happy they are; how satisfied they are with life; how anxious they felt yesterday and the extent to which they feel things in their life were worthwhile.

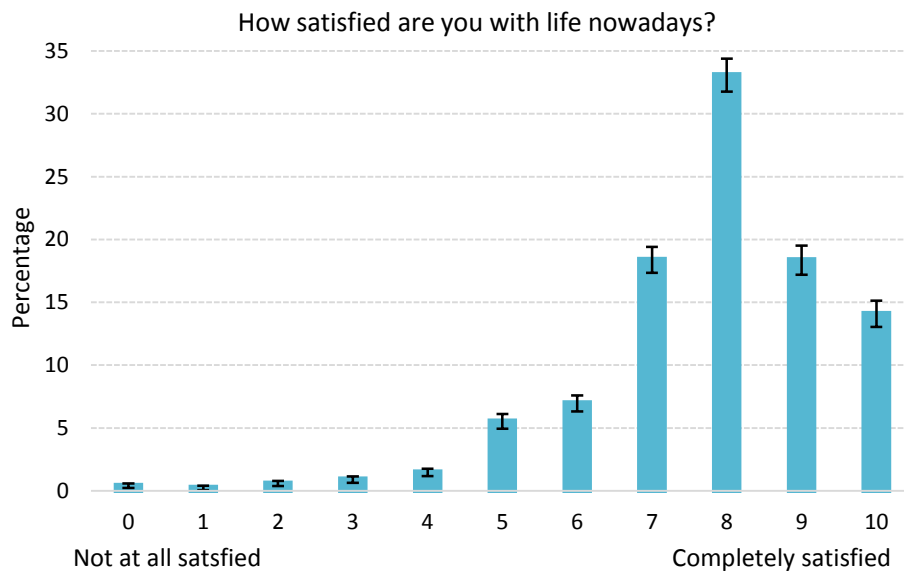
A mean score has been calculated for each measure of wellbeing, these are: 8.0 for **happiness**; 7.8 for **satisfaction**; 2.9 for **anxiety**; and 8.0 for **life worthwhileness**. Figure 1 below shows the distribution of scores for each question for all adults.

Figure 1: Well-being scores for all adults, 2014/15



Notes

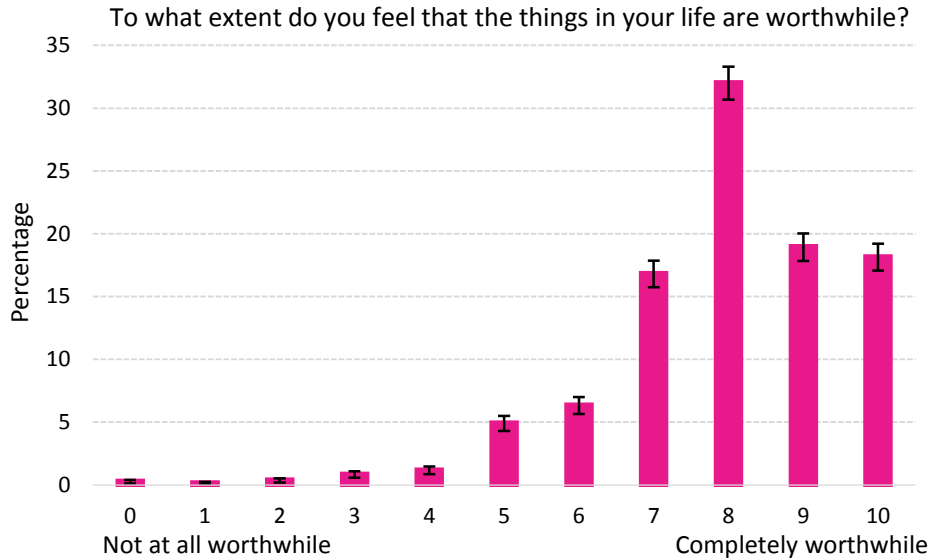
Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-0.2 and +/-1.3



Notes

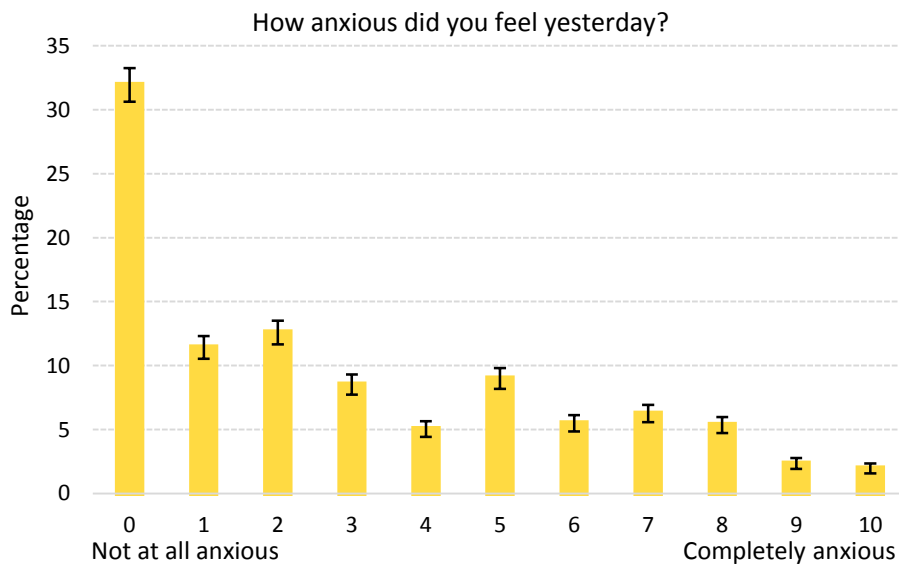
Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-0.2 and +/-1.3





Notes

Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-0.1 and +/-1.3



Notes

Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-0.4 and +/-1.3

Mean scores for personal well-being in 2014/15 were as follows (2013/14 mean scores are given in brackets)

- 8.0 for happiness (8.0);
- 7.8 for life satisfaction (7.7);
- 2.9 for anxiety yesterday (3.0);
- 8.0 for life worthwhileness (7.9).

How does this compare?

A recent Office for National Statistics [report](#) calculated mean scores for personal well-being in 2014/15 as follows:

- 7.5 out of 10 for happiness yesterday;
- 7.6 out of 10 for life satisfaction;
- 2.9 out of 10 for anxiety yesterday;
- 7.8 out of 10 for life worthwhileness

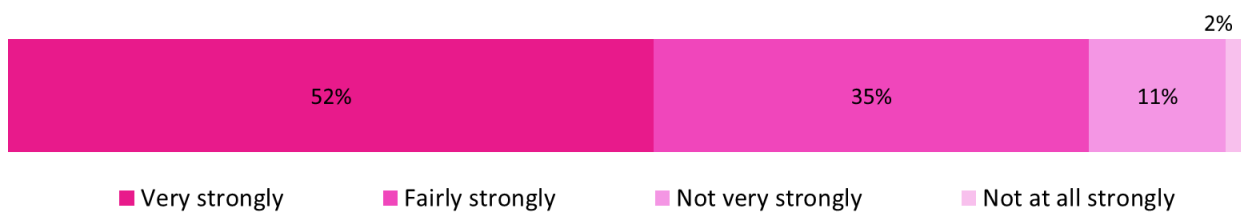
National Identity

In 2014/15 over half of adults (**52 per cent**) felt a **very strong sense of belonging** to Britain, while over a third (**35 per cent**) felt a **fairly strong sense of belonging** to Britain.

There has been no significant change in the proportion of adults who felt a very strong sense or a fairly strong sense of belonging to Britain between 2011/12 and 2014/15.

However, there has been a significant decrease in the proportion of adults who felt **not at all strongly** that they belong to Britain between 2011/12 and 2014/15.

Figure 2: Strength of feeling of belonging to Britain, 2014/15



What makes you most proud of Britain?

- Almost two thirds (**59 per cent**) of adults cited that the **British countryside and scenery** made them most proud of Britain. This is a significant decrease from 61 per cent in 2011/12 when the question was first asked.
- There was a significant increase in the number of people who felt that the **British health system** makes them most proud of Britain; from 39 per cent in 2011/2012 to 42 per cent in 2014/15.
- There was a significant decrease in the number of people who have cited that **British history** made them most proud of Britain in the last year. In 2011/12, 40 per cent of adults were proud of the British history; however, this fell to 37 per cent in 2014/15.
- Across all age groups, the **British countryside and scenery** was the most common reason adults gave for being proud of Britain, followed by the **British health system**.
- **British history** was the third most popular among all groups, except for adults over the age of 75 who ranked the **British Monarchy** as their third highest.

What does 'significant' mean?

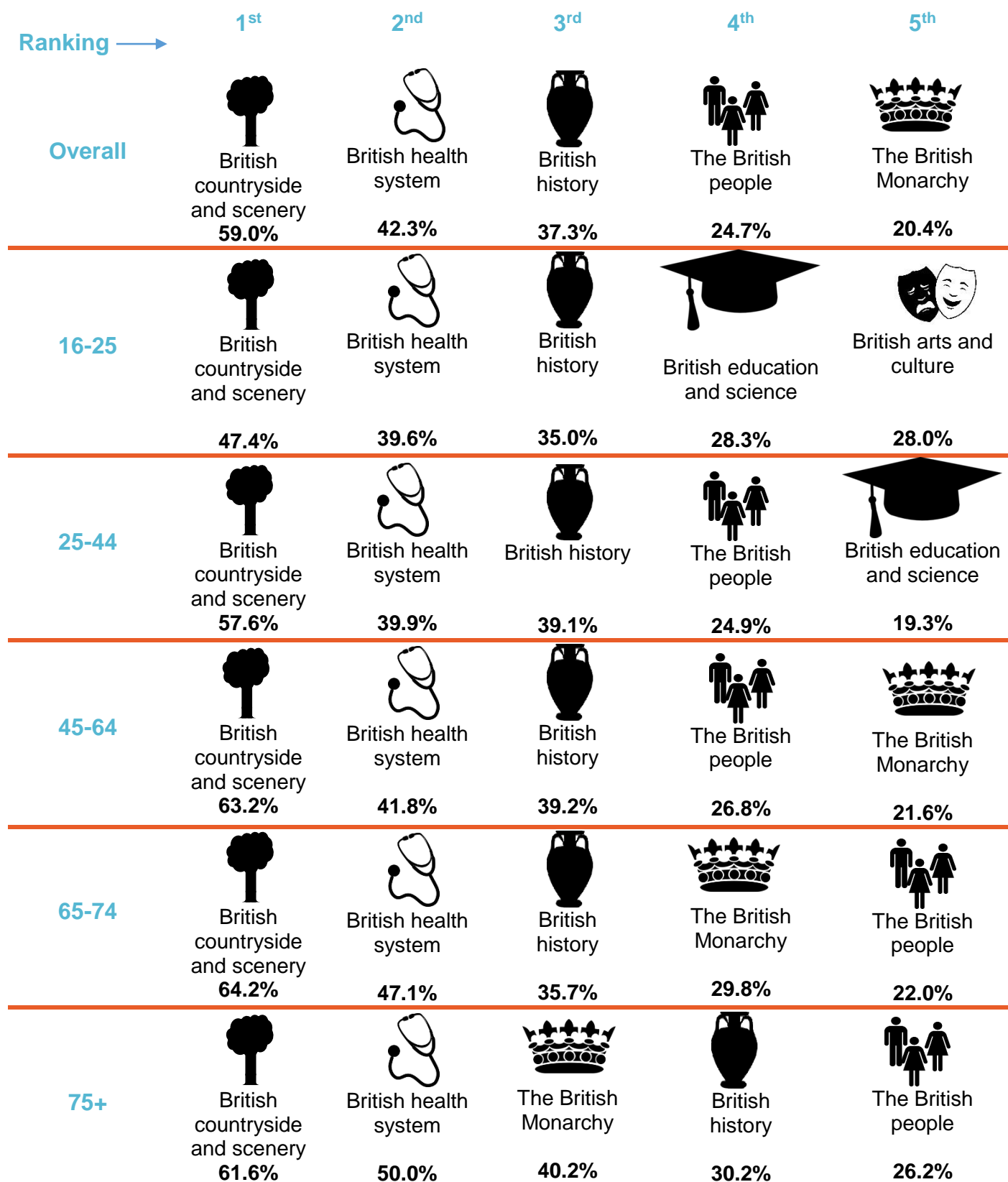
A significant increase or decrease at the 95% level means that there is less than a 5% chance (1 in 20) that the difference observed within the sampled respondents is not a real difference and representative of the English population as a whole.

How are these data collected?

Respondents are asked to look at a list of factors and select up to three that they consider to make them most proud of Britain. Respondents also have the opportunity to select 'none'.



Figure 3: What makes us most proud of Britain, 2014/15?

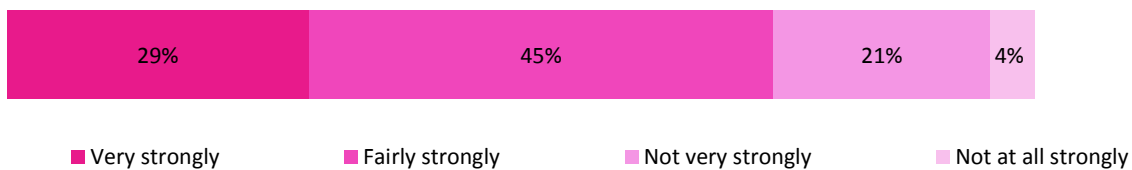


For more information, including rankings by other characteristics see the accompanying tables.

Local community

In 2014/15, 45 per cent of adults said that they felt a **fairly strong sense of belonging** in their local community and a further 29 per cent felt a **very strong sense of belonging** in their local community.

Figure 4: Strength of belonging in local community, 2014/15



What is most important to your local area?

- Almost two thirds (62 per cent) of adults cited that **clean streets** were most important to their local area, followed by **green spaces** (49 per cent). The proportion of adults citing that clean streets and green spaces are the most important factors to their local area has remained broadly stable since 2011/12 and their rankings have not changed.

How are these data collected?

Respondents are asked to look at a list of factors and select up to three that they consider to be most important to their local area. Respondents also have the opportunity to select 'none'.

- Since 2011/12, there has been a year on year decline in the number of adults citing that **education facilities** are important to their local area, from 40 per cent in 2011/12 to 37 per cent in 2014/15. However, this decline is not statistically significant and education facilities are still ranked the 3rd most important to the local area.
- In contrast, there has also been a year on year increase in the number of adults citing that **traffic management** is important to their local area, from 25 per cent in 2011/12 to 28 per cent in 2014/15. This increase is not statistically significant and traffic management is still ranked the 6th most important factor to the local area.

Factors most important to their local area, by gender

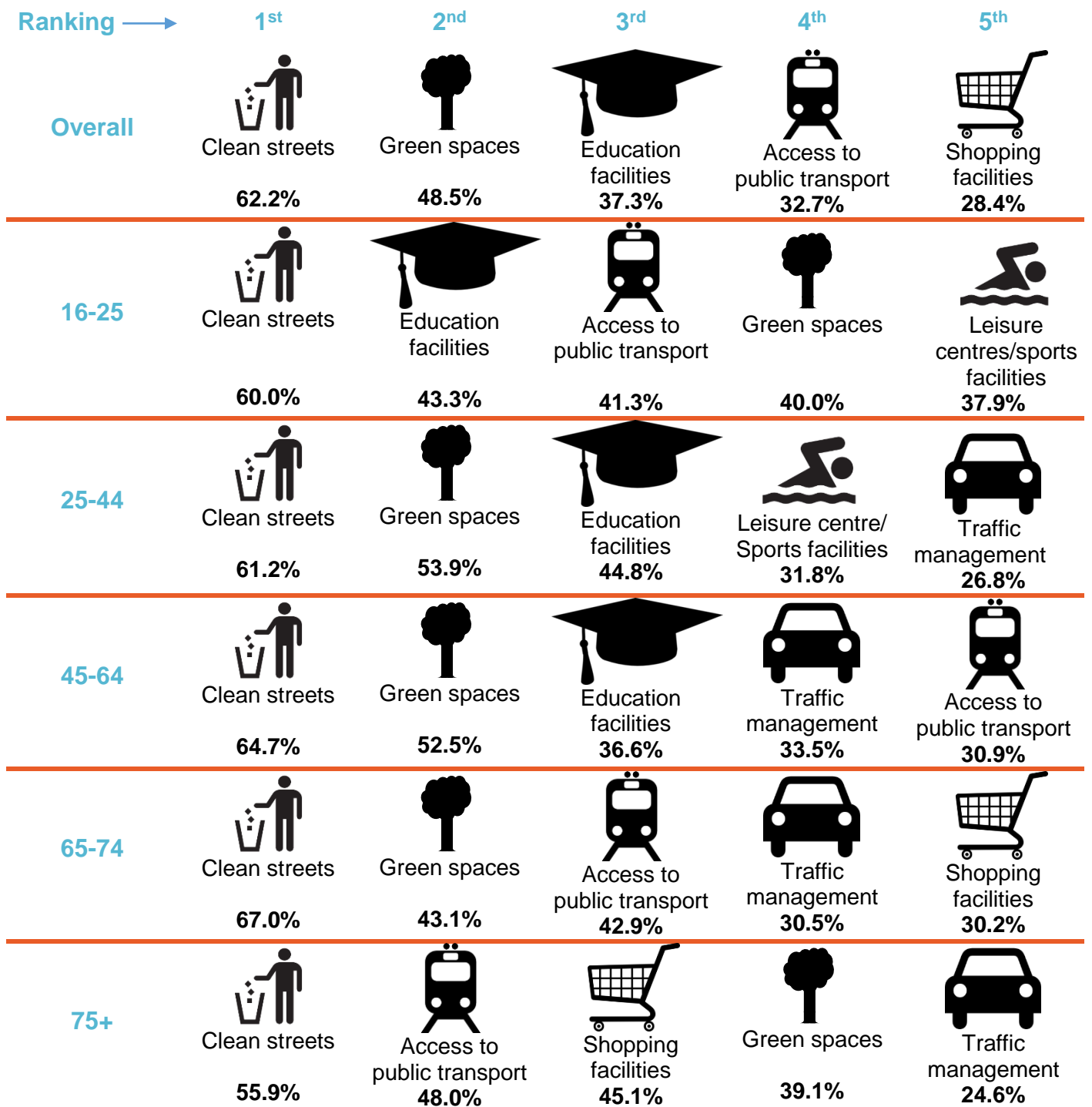


- 61 per cent of women cited that clean streets were important to their local area.
- 48 per cent of women cited that green spaces were important to their local area



- 64 per cent of men cited that clean streets were important to their local area
- 49 per cent of men cited that green spaces were important to their local area.

Figure 5: What is most important to your local area?



For more information, including rankings by other characteristics see the **accompanying tables**.

Civic participation

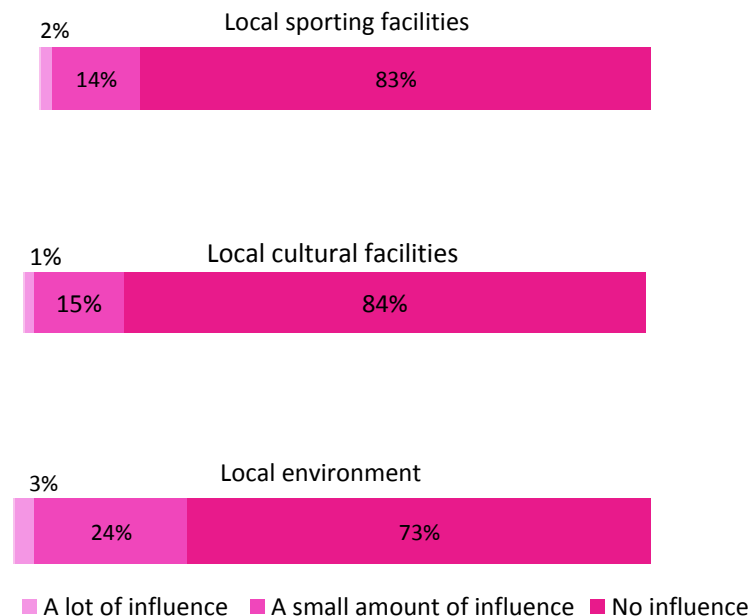
Local influence

In 2014/15, only a small proportion of adults felt they had a **lot of influence** over the facilities in their local area, such as local **sporting facilities (2 per cent)**, **cultural facilities (1 per cent)** and the **environment (3 per cent)**.

The majority of adults felt that they had **no influence** over the quality and variety of local **sporting facilities (83 per cent)**, over the quality and variety of local **cultural facilities (84 per cent)** and over the quality of their **local environment (73 per cent)**.

Figure 6: Influence over the local area, 2014/15

How much influence do you have over the quality of your...



Acting for change

The table below shows the actions taken by adults in 2014/15 to try and get something done about the sporting and cultural facilities in their local area, alongside actions they would take in the future.

The number of number of adults who cited that there are no problems affecting facilities in the local area has significantly decreased from 3 per cent in 2010/11 to 2 per cent in 2014/15. Over the same period, there has been a significant increase in the number of adults who have cited that they would **contact a local MP** (from 17 per cent in 2010/11 to **20 per cent in 2014/15**) if they wanted to get something done about the sporting or cultural facilities in the local area.



Table 1: Actions taken or would take to change local sporting or cultural facilities in the local area, 2014/15

	Have taken this action	Would like to take this action
Contacted the local council	13%	54%
Contacted a local councillor or MP	6%	20%
Joined a local group or attended a neighbourhood forum	3%	6%
Attended a protest meeting or joined a campaign group	2%	2%
Helped organise a petition	2%	2%
Contacted a local radio station, TV station or paper	1%	1%
Talked to/ written to a sporting or cultural facility	1%	7%

Participation in groups

Adults were also asked if they had been involved in any groups, clubs or organisations in the last 12 months and, if so, which groups they had taken part in.

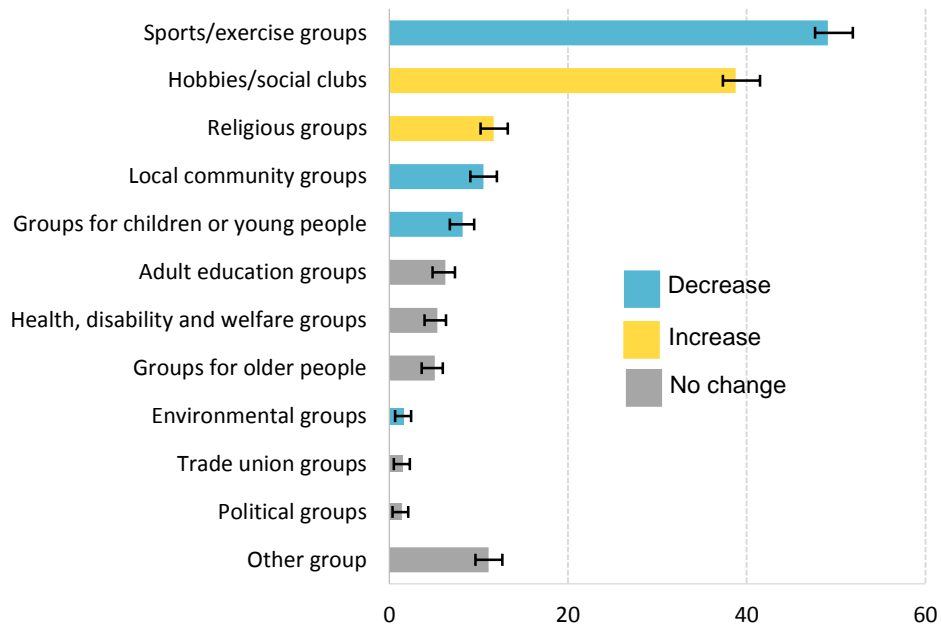
There has been a year on year significant decrease in the number of adults who have been involved in groups, clubs or organisations in the last 12 months. In 2014/15, **38 per cent of adults were involved in groups, clubs or organisations** in the 12 months prior to the interview, a significant decrease from 46 per cent in 2010/11.

Of those adults who were involved in groups clubs or organisations in 2014/15, **49 per cent of participated in sport or in an exercise group**. This number has decreased slightly (although not statistically significant) since 2010/11 when 52 per cent of adults participated in sport groups.

38 per cent of adults participated in hobbies or social clubs, this number has significantly increased since 2010/11 where 35 per cent of adults participated in hobbies or social clubs.

There has also been a significant decrease in the number of adults involved in **local community or neighbourhood groups** (10 per cent in 2014/15 compared with 14 per cent in 2010/11) and **groups for children or young people** (8 per cent in 2014/15 compared with 13 per cent in 2010/11).

Figure 8: Types of groups participated in, 2014/15



Notes

Confidence intervals, shown as error bars, range between +/-0.8 and +/-3.2.

What is a confidence interval?

A confidence interval provides a range in which there is a specific probability that the true value will lie within. For this survey, 95% confidence intervals are used which means, had the sampling been conducted 100 times, creating 100 confidence intervals, then 95 percent of these intervals would contain the true value.



Annex A: Further details

1. The Taking Part survey is commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and its partner Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs). For 2011 to 2015 these are Arts Council England, Historic England and Sport England.
2. Taking Part is a National Statistic and as such has been produced to the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. National Statistics undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs and are produced free from any political interference. See the [Statistics Authority code of practice](#) for more information.

The UK 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; and
- 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. See the [UK Statistics Authority assessment](#) for [more information](#).

3. The latest results presented here are based on interviews issued between April 2014 and March 2015. The total sample size for this period is 9,817.
4. Statistical significance tests have been run at the 95% level. A significant increase at the 95% level means that there is less than 5% (1 in 20) chance that the difference observed within the sampled respondents was not also observed in the English population as a whole.
5. For more information see the [Taking Part Survey](#) webpages, including previous publications. Versions of the [questionnaires](#) from all years of the survey are also available.
6. The fieldwork for the survey has been conducted by TNS-BMRB. For more information, see <http://www.tns-bmr.co.uk>
7. The series of reports has been produced by Helen Miller-Bakewell, Wilma Deda, Becky Woods, Catherine Mottram and Niall Goulding (DCMS), Louise O'Sullivan, David Bade and Adala Leeson (Historic England), Eloise Poole (Arts Council England) and Rachael Whitney and Helen Price (Sport England). Acknowledgement goes to colleagues within the DCMS, partner ALBs and TNS-BMRB for their assistance with the production and quality assurance of this release.
8. The responsible statistician for this release is Helen Miller-Bakewell. For enquiries on this release, please contact Helen on 0207 211 6355. This release was prepared by Wilmah Deda.
9. For general enquiries telephone: 0207 211 6200 or email enquiries@culture.gov.uk
10. To be kept informed about Taking Part publications and user events, please sign up to the Taking Part online newsletter [here](#).

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