



Department for  
Digital, Culture,  
Media & Sport

# Community Life Survey User Event

31<sup>st</sup> 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



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# 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.

# Time line



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Citizenship  
Survey  
Commissioned  
by Home Office

Citizenship  
Survey  
Moved to  
MHCLG

Citizenship Survey  
decommissioned

Community Life Survey  
Commissioned by  
Cabinet Office

Online/postal  
testing begins

Move to DCMS,  
Survey moved to  
self-completion

2001

2006

2010-11

2012-13

2013-14

2016-17



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# What's included in the survey?



- Identity and social networks
- Your Community
- Civil Engagement
- Volunteering
- Social Action
- Subjective Wellbeing







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# 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

**BETA** This is a new service – please send your feedback to [ethnicity@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:ethnicity@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

[Ethnicity facts and figures](#) › [Culture and community](#)

## Feeling of belonging to Britain

Department: Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport  
 Published: 10 October 2017  
 Last updated: 11 October 2017, [see all updates](#)  
 Source: [Community Life Survey](#)  
 Area covered: England  
 Time period: August 2016 to March 2017

The main facts and figures show that:

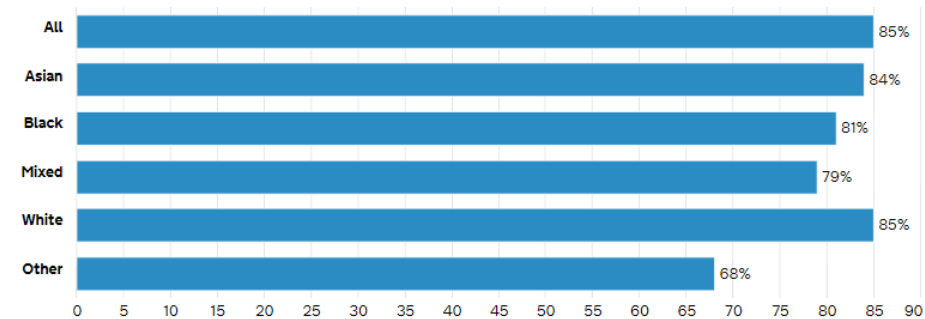
- a high percentage (between 79% to 85%) of White, Black, Asian and Mixed race adults felt strongly they belonged to Britain over the period studied

- ▶ [Things you need to know](#)
- ▶ [What the data measures](#)
- ▶ [The ethnic categories used in this data](#)

### Feeling of belonging strongly to Britain by ethnicity

Location: England  
 Time period: August 2016 to March 2017  
 Source: [Community Life Survey](#)

Percentage of people who felt they belong strongly to Britain by ethnicity



Percentage of people who felt they belong strongly to Britain by ethnicity





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# Push to Web Methodology



Citizenship Survey  
Commissioned by  
Home Office

Citizenship Survey  
Moved to DCLG

Citizenship Survey  
decommissioned

Community Life Survey  
Commissioned by  
Cabinet Office

Online/postal  
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Survey moved to  
self-completion

2001

2006

2010-11

2012-13

2013-14

2016-17



# 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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-life-survey-experimental-online-survey-findings>

- Within household sampling

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/466925/The\\_Community\\_Life\\_Survey\\_Investigating\\_the\\_Feasibility\\_of\\_Sampling\\_All\\_Adults\\_in\\_the\\_Household\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/466925/The_Community_Life_Survey_Investigating_the_Feasibility_of_Sampling_All_Adults_in_the_Household_FINAL.pdf)





# 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.

# Sample size



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| Year    | Face to Face | Self-completion | Online | Paper |
|---------|--------------|-----------------|--------|-------|
| 2013-14 | <b>5,105</b> | <b>10,215*</b>  | 9,387  | 828   |
| 2014-15 | <b>2,022</b> | <b>2,323*</b>   | 2,226  | 97    |
| 2015-16 | <b>3,027</b> | <b>3,256*</b>   | 2,233  | 1,023 |
| 2016-17 | -            | <b>10,256</b>   | 7,365  | 2,891 |

\*collected for methodological purposes

Source: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/631932/Community\\_Life\\_Survey\\_-\\_Online\\_Paper\\_Estimates\\_Technical\\_Note\\_2016-17\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/631932/Community_Life_Survey_-_Online_Paper_Estimates_Technical_Note_2016-17_FINAL.pdf)



# Response rates

|         | Face to Face | Online/ paper | Online | Additional due to paper |
|---------|--------------|---------------|--------|-------------------------|
| 2013-14 | 61%          | 27-28%        | 25-26% | 1%-3%                   |
| 2014-15 | 59%          | 19%           | 18%    | 1%                      |
| 2015-16 | 61%          | 25%           | 17%    | 8%                      |
| 2016-17 | -            | 21%           | 15%    | 6%                      |



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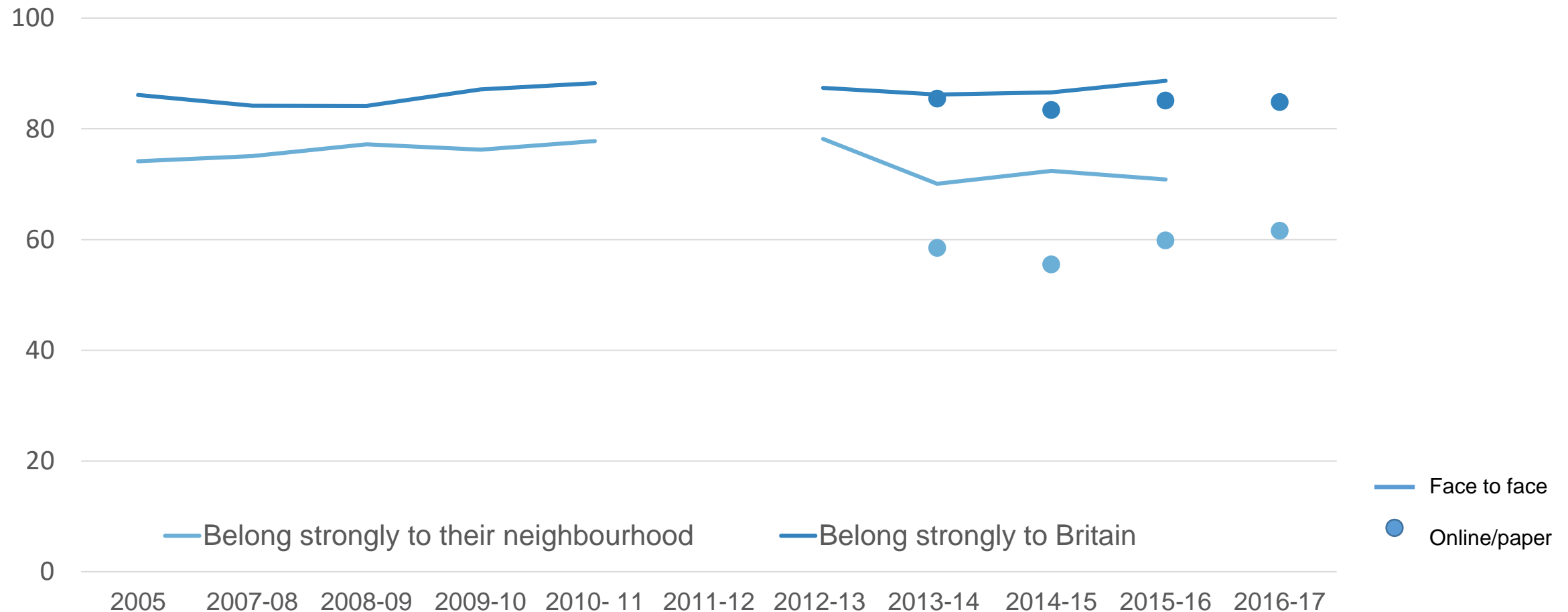
# 2016/17 Findings

# Feeling of belonging to Neighbourhood & Britain



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

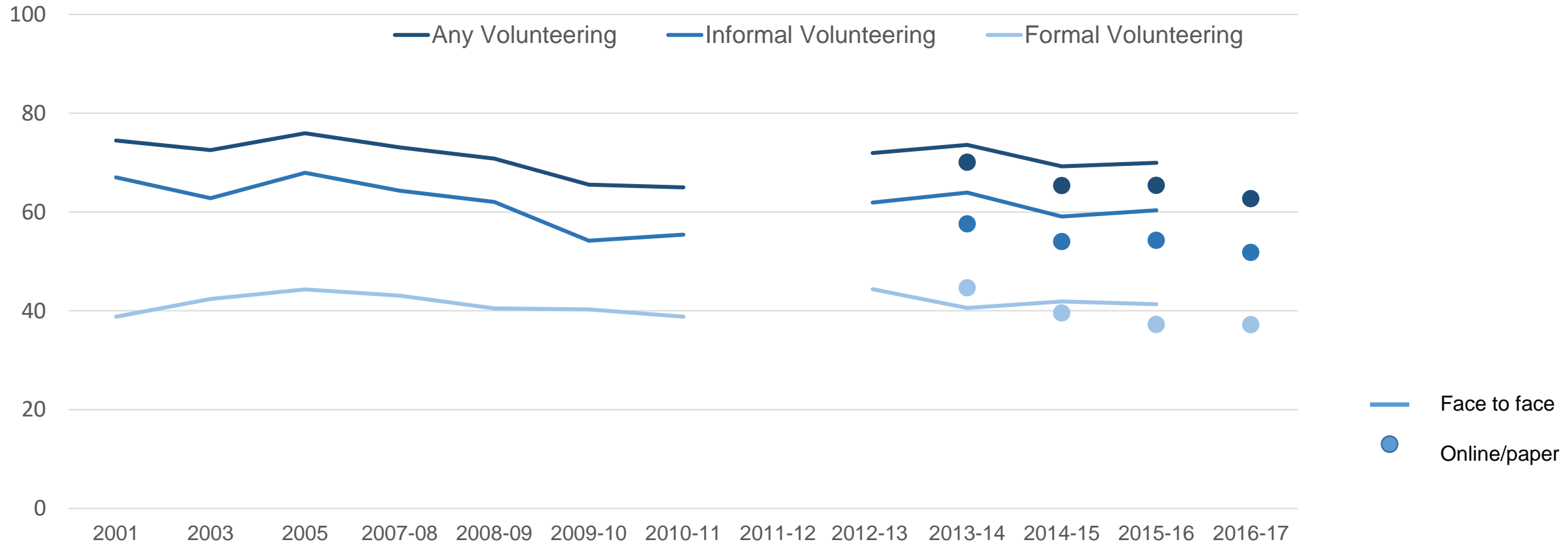


# Volunteering



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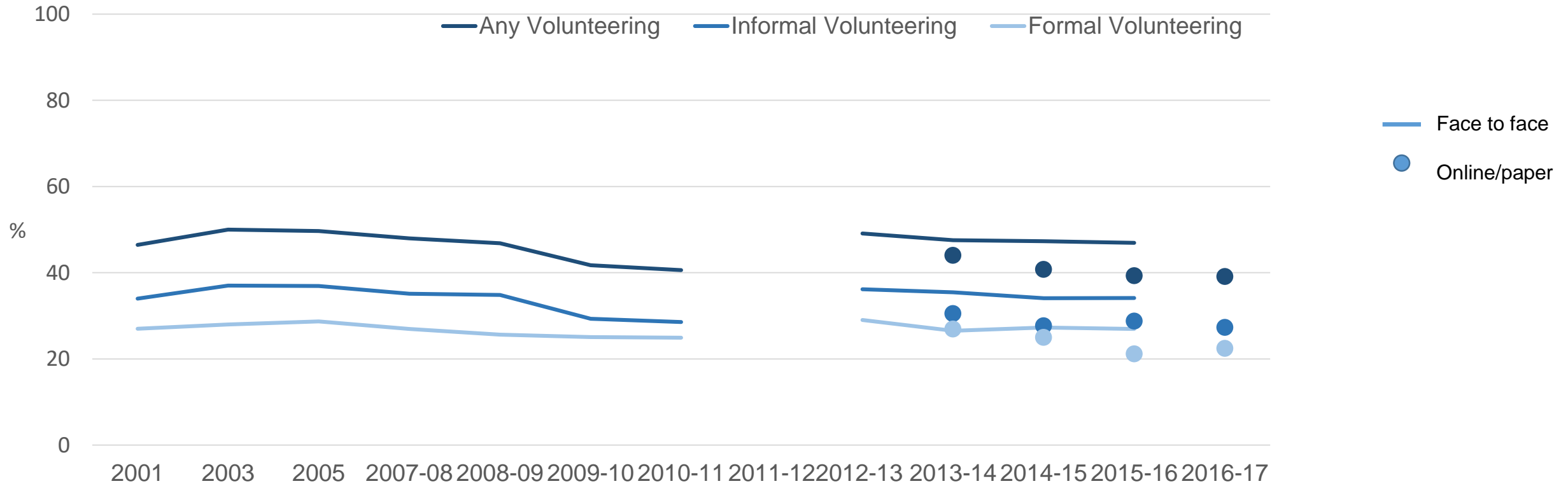
Formal, informal and any volunteering, at least once a year



# Formal, informal and any volunteering least once a month



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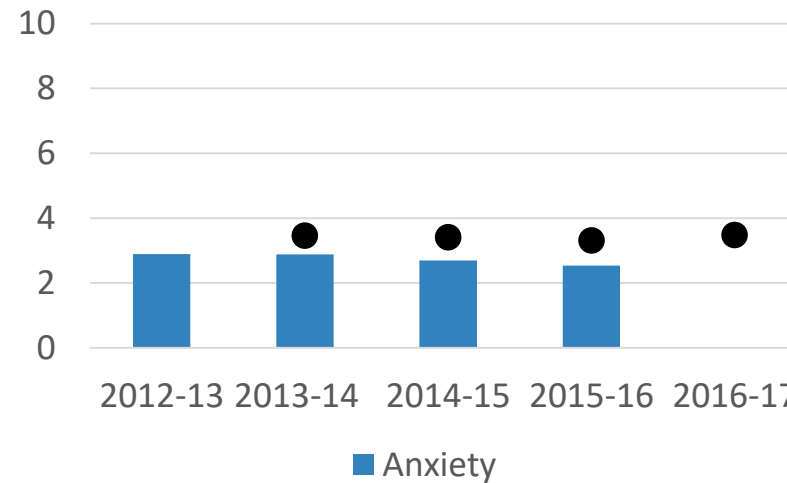
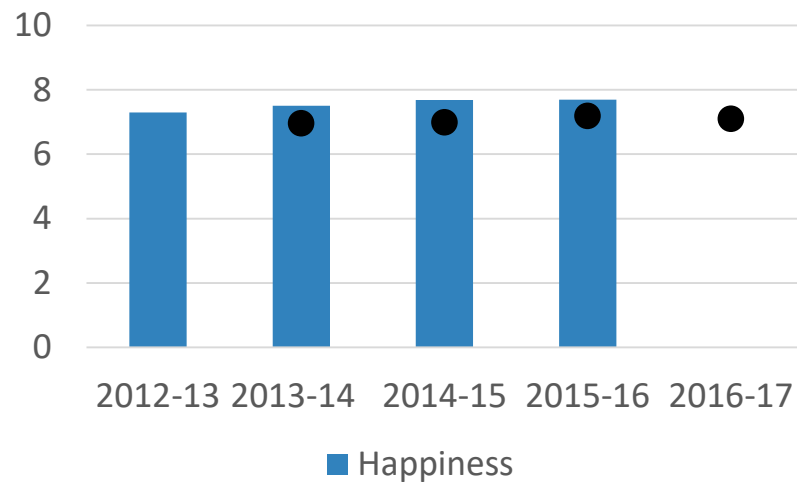
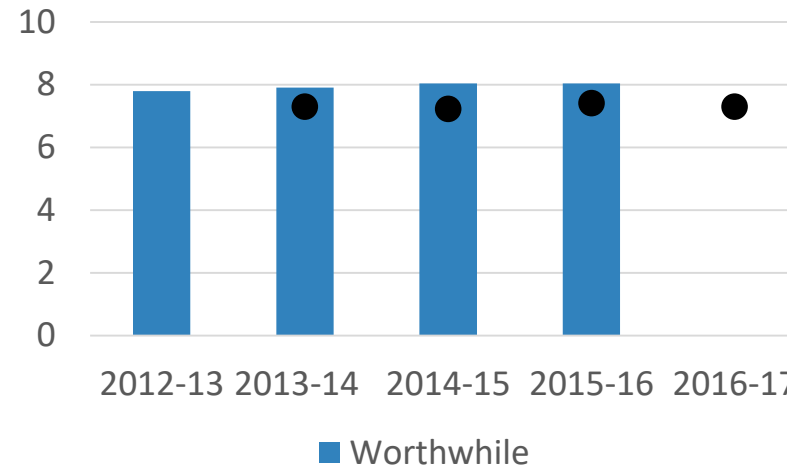
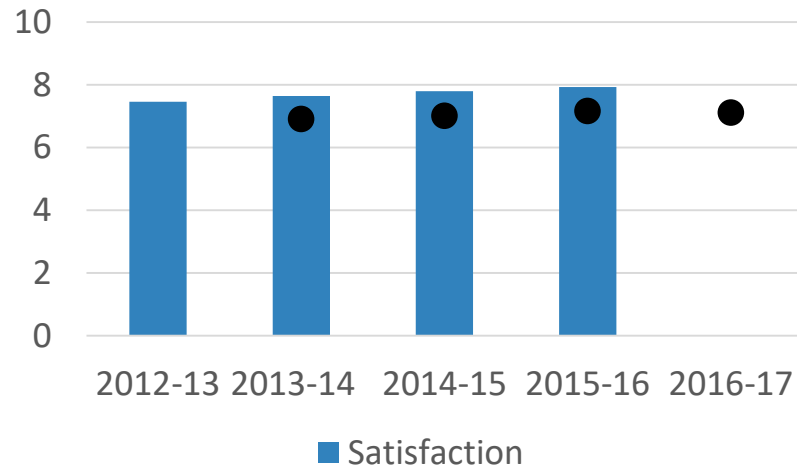


# Well-being

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



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■ Face to face  
● Online/paper

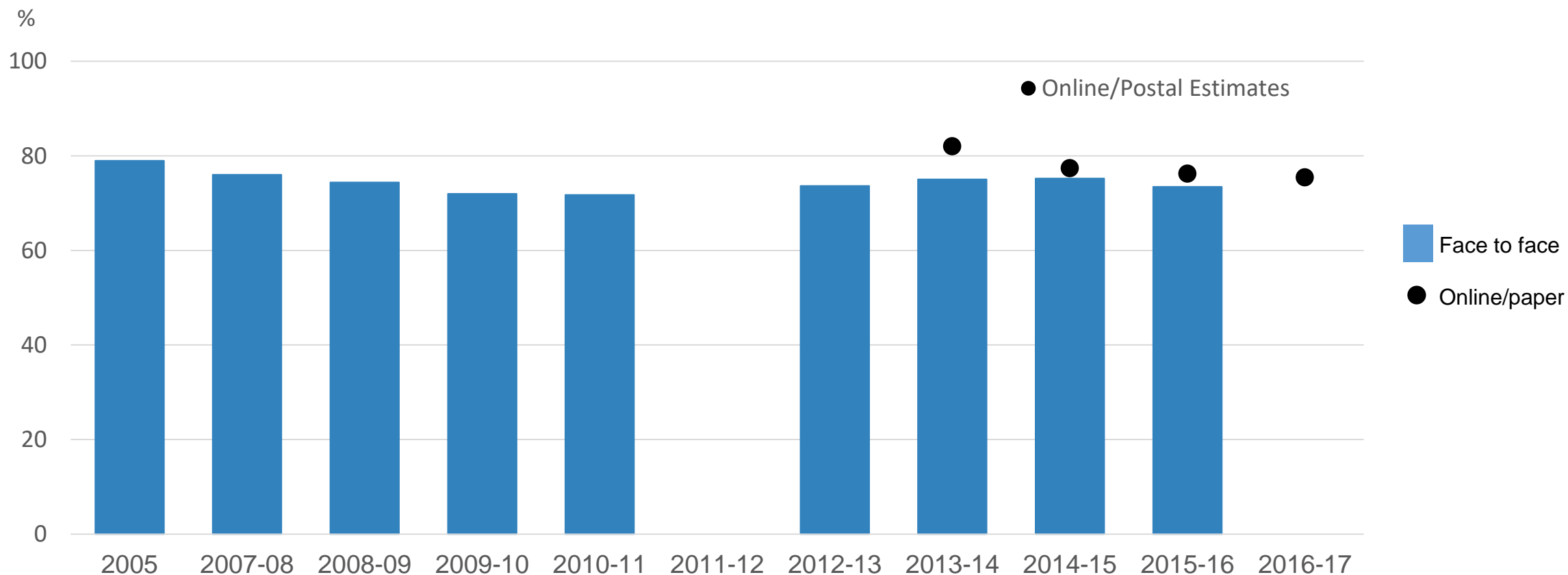


# Charitable Giving



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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 2016-17, 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 2016-17, 85% of respondents felt that they belonged very or fairly strongly to Britain compared to 62% who felt they belonged to their neighbourhood.

Figure 1: Proportion belonging to Britain and their neighbourhood, 2013-14 to 2016-17



- 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](mailto: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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Olivia Christophersen

#### Statistical enquiries:

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#### Media enquiries:

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Date: 25 July 2017

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## Bulletin: High level findings

# Reference tables



| Table 1: Participation in civic engagement and voluntary activities, England 2001 to 2016-17 |                            |                   |                   |                      |                      |                      |                      |         |         |         |         |                             |         |         |         |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| England, 2001 to 2015-16   |                            |                   |                   |                      |                      |                      |                      |         |         |         |         | England, 2013-14 to 2016-17 |         |         |         |
| Percentages  | Face-to-Face Estimates     |                   |                   |                      |                      |                      |                      |         |         |         |         | Online/Paper Estimates      |         |         |         |
|  | At least once a month      |                   |                   |                      |                      |                      |                      |         |         |         |         | At least once a month       |         |         |         |
|  | 2001 <sup>1</sup>          | 2003 <sup>1</sup> | 2005 <sup>1</sup> | 2007-08 <sup>1</sup> | 2008-09 <sup>1</sup> | 2009-10 <sup>1</sup> | 2010-11 <sup>1</sup> | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2013-14                     | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
| Civic participation <sup>2</sup>   | 3                          | 3                 | 2                 | 3                    | 3                    | 3                    | 2                    | 4       | 3       | 5       | 4       | 4                           | 3       | 5       | 5       |
| Civic consultation <sup>2</sup>  | n/a                        | n/a               | 2                 | 2                    | 2                    | 1                    | 1                    | 2       | 2       | 2       | 2       | 2                           | 1       | 2       | 2       |
| Civic activism <sup>2</sup>  | n/a                        | n/a               | 4                 | 4                    | n/a                  | n/a                  | n/a                  | n/a     | n/a     | n/a     | n/a     | n/a                         | n/a     | n/a     | n/a     |
| Informal volunteering  | 34                         | 37                | 37                | 35                   | 35                   | 29                   | 29                   | 36      | 35      | 34      | 34      | 31                          | 28      | 29      | 27      |
| Formal volunteering  | 27                         | 28                | 29                | 27                   | 26                   | 25                   | 25                   | 29      | 27      | 27      | 27      | 27                          | 25      | 21      | 22      |
| Any volunteering <sup>3</sup>  | 46                         | 50                | 50                | 48                   | 47                   | 42                   | 41                   | 49      | 48      | 47      | 47      | 44                          | 41      | 39      | 39      |
| Percentages  | At least once in last year |                   |                   |                      |                      |                      |                      |         |         |         |         | At least once in last year  |         |         |         |
|  | 2001 <sup>1</sup>          | 2003 <sup>1</sup> | 2005 <sup>1</sup> | 2007-08 <sup>1</sup> | 2008-09 <sup>1</sup> | 2009-10 <sup>1</sup> | 2010-11 <sup>1</sup> | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2013-14                     | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
| Civic participation <sup>2</sup>   | 38                         | 38                | 38                | 39                   | 38                   | 34                   | 34                   | 41      | 30      | 30      | 34      | 39                          | 35      | 33      | 41      |
| Civic consultation <sup>2</sup>  | n/a                        | n/a               | 20                | 21                   | 20                   | 18                   | 17                   | 18      | 16      | 17      | 16      | 19                          | 17      | 16      | 18      |
| Civic activism <sup>2</sup>  | n/a                        | n/a               | 9                 | 10                   | 10                   | 10                   | 10                   | 10      | 9       | 8       | 10      | 10                          | 8       | 9       | 8       |
| Informal volunteering  | 67                         | 63                | 68                | 64                   | 62                   | 54                   | 55                   | 62      | 64      | 59      | 60      | 58                          | 54      | 54      | 52      |
| Formal volunteering  | 39                         | 42                | 44                | 43                   | 41                   | 40                   | 39                   | 44      | 41      | 42      | 41      | 45                          | 40      | 37      | 37      |
| Any volunteering <sup>3</sup>  | 74                         | 73                | 76                | 73                   | 71                   | 66                   | 65                   | 72      | 74      | 69      | 70      | 70                          | 65      | 65      | 63      |
| Employer volunteering <sup>4</sup>   | n/a                        | n/a               | n/a               | n/a                  | n/a                  | n/a                  | n/a                  | 6       | 8       | 8       | 8       | 6                           | 5       | 5       | 6       |
| Respondents  | 9,430                      | 8,920             | 9,195             | 8,804                | 8,768                | 8,712                | 9,664                | 6,915   | 5,105   | 2,022   | 3,027   | 10,215                      | 2,323   | 3,256   | 10,256  |

<sup>1</sup>Data collected through the Citizenship Survey  
<sup>2</sup>The questions measuring civic participation, consultation and activism were updated in 2012-13 to include online participation and so the trend data is not directly comparable  
<sup>3</sup>Participated in other formal or informal volunteering

Civic participation and civic consultation at least once a month and employer volunteering



**Ready Reckoner**

**Instructions:**  
To test whether the difference between two percentages are statistically significant, please enter the

- percentage, please copy values directly from the table so correct formatting (please do not use percentage symbol) and decimal places are used
- survey year the figure is from
- number of respondents (who answered that question) for the two figures you want to test the difference between.

| <b>Figure A</b>                      |                       | <b>Figure B</b> |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Percentage                           | 44                    | Percentage      | 39                    |
| Survey Year                          | 2013-14 online/postal | Survey Year     | 2016-17 online/postal |
| Respondents                          | 10,215                | Respondents     | 10,256                |
| Statistically significant difference | Different             |                 |                       |

List of tables | **Ready reckoner** | Further details | Table information | Table 1 | Table 2 | Tal

“Ready Reckoner” to test statistical significance



- CSV file

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/community-life-survey-2016-17>

- Data available through UK Data Service

[https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/](https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk)



## Taking Part focus on: Heritage

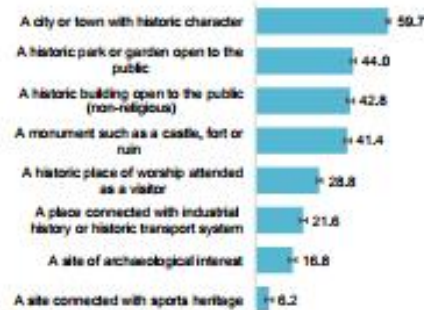
### Visits to heritage sites

In 2016/17, 74.2% of adults had visited a heritage site in their own time, for voluntary work or for academic study, and 74.8% had visited a heritage site for any purpose.

When asked how much they enjoyed their last visit, 30.6% of adults gave it a score of 10 out of 10 and 95.2% of adults gave it a score of 6 or more out of 10.

Visiting a city or town with historic character was the most popular activity, with 59.7% of adults having done this at least once in the last year in 2016/17.

Proportion of adults who had visited different types of heritage sites in the last 12 months, 2016/17



### Volunteering and social action

In 2016/17:

- 1.6% of adults had volunteered in the heritage sector in the last 12 months, which is 4.9% of all volunteers
- 2.5% of adults had been involved in planning decisions that affected heritage sites in the last 12 months

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 26<sup>th</sup> September, and provides additional data from the 2016/17 survey on engagement with heritage.

The data used have been collected continuously between April 2009 and March 2017.

### Responsible statistician:

Alison Reynolds

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### Statistical enquiries:

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[@DCMSinsight](https://twitter.com/DCMSinsight)

### Media enquiries:

020 7211 2210

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017

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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:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/community-life-survey-2016-17>

Previous publications and testing documentation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/community-life-survey>

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



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# Breakout Session



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**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?**