



Date: 9th February 2017

Children's Omnibus Survey 2016: Initial Release of Headline Data

Introduction

The Children's Omnibus Survey is conducted twice a year, in spring and autumn, by Beaufort Research. The Arts Council has taken part in this Omnibus survey every year since 2007, and our survey questions focus on levels of attendance and participation by children and young people in the arts in Wales.

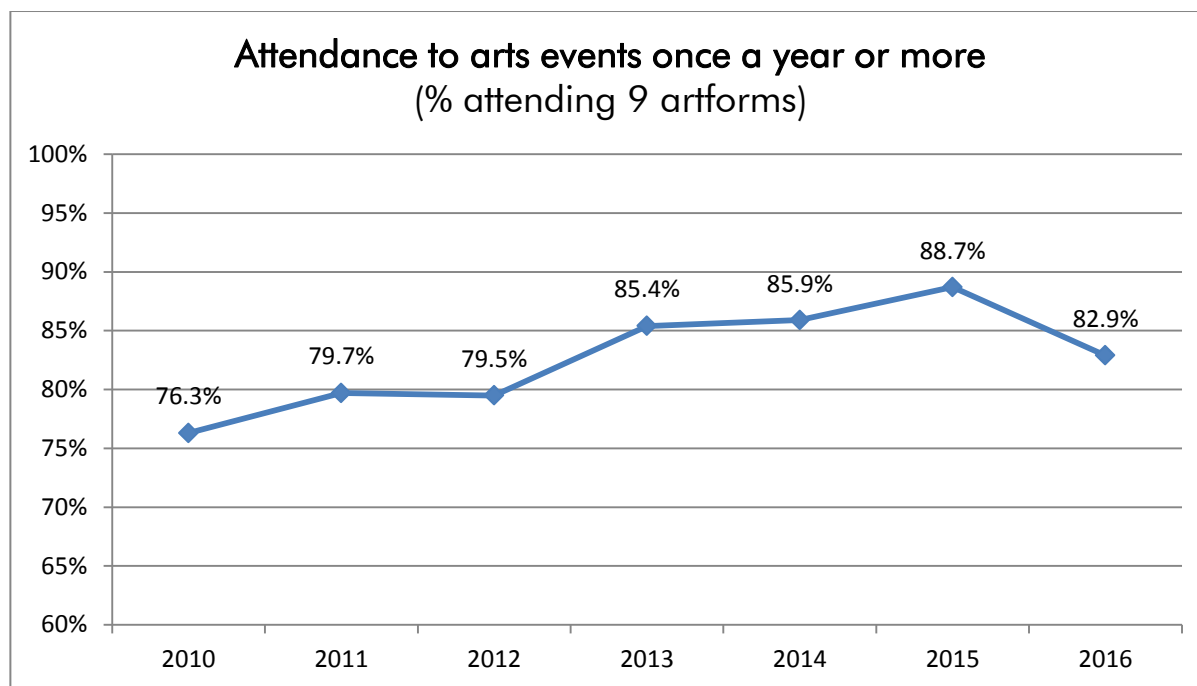
This report summarises the key results for the amalgamated data set for 2016. A detailed report will be published on 23rd February 2017.

The results are based on 1,021 interviews completed with a representative sample of children and young people across Wales, aged 7 to 18 years. The survey fieldwork was conducted in March – April and October – November 2016; 514 interviews were completed in the first wave and 507 in the second.

Key Results

Attendance

- During 2016, 82.9% of children and young people in Wales attended an arts event once a year or more. This represents a 5.8 percentage point decrease in attendance levels from the previous year.



Base: Approximately 1,000 children and young people aged 7-18 years in each year

Attendance¹ levels during 2016 demonstrate:

- More girls (85.9%) than boys (80.0%) continue to attend arts events once a year or more, following the trend of the previous two years. However, the gap between the two genders remains at 6 percentage points.
- There continue to be a bias in attendance levels by socio economic grade. Those children and young people in the higher grades (ABC1s²) are more likely to attend the arts than those in the C2DE group (87.9% compared to 78.5% of C2DEs).

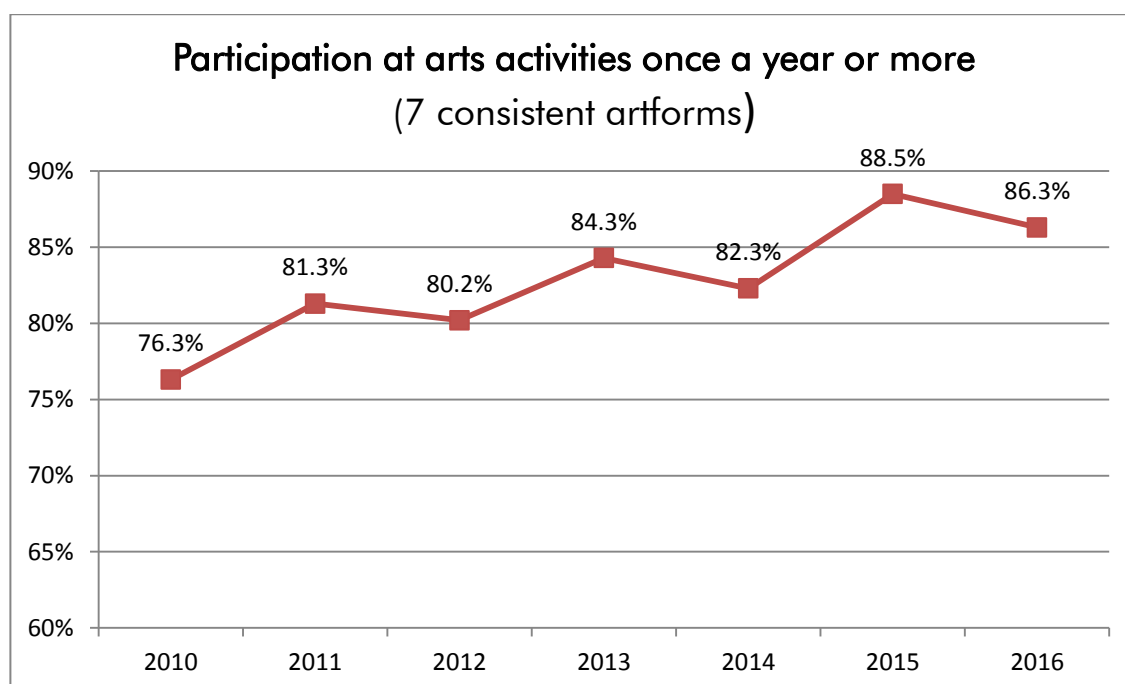
¹ The graph shows data for attendance at 9 artforms which have been included in the survey since 2010. The following artforms are included: plays, musicals, opera, classical music concerts, other live music, dance performances, art or craft galleries or exhibitions, readings, storytellings or other literature events and carnival & street arts.

² Social grade is classified using the JICNARS grades (A, B, C1, C2, D, or E) and is based on the occupation of the chief income earner in the household in which the young person lives.

- As was the case in both 2014 & 2015, plays and carnivals & street arts were the two artforms which had the highest levels of attendance during 2016; 47.4% and 44.6%, respectively. Opera continues to be the artform with the lowest level of attendance. In 2016, 10 respondents (1.0%) said they had attended opera. Attendances to 'other' live music events have experienced the highest increase of all artforms, up by 3.7 percentage points from the previous year, with 38.9% children and young people attending these music events in 2016.

Participation

- In 2016, 86.3% of children and young people took part in arts activities once a year or more; a decrease of 2.2 percentage points since 2015.



Base: Approximately 1,000 children and young people aged 7- 18 years in each year

- As with attendances, more girls than boys take part in the arts; 90.4% compared to 82.3%, with the gap between the two genders increasing from the previous year from 1.5 percentage points in 2015 to 8.1 percentage points in 2016.
- ABC1s have higher levels of participation in the arts, at 90.8%, compared to 82.3% of C2DEs. The ABC1 social group has experienced slight increases in participation from 2015 (up 1.0 percentage point) while the lower C2DE group experienced a decrease of 5.0 percentage points over the same period.
- Participation in creative writing (64.9%) is the most popular activity, followed by visual arts & crafts (61.8%) and musical activities (50.3%). Participation in digital arts (45.2% in 2016) was the only artform to experience a year-on-year increase, up by 2.4 percentage points. Dance is the artform with the lowest levels of participation (23.0%); a decrease of 1.5 percentage points from the previous year.

Frequency

The Arts Council of Wales includes questions on the Children's Omnibus Survey twice a year; in Spring and Autumn. A full report of the amalgamated dataset will be published in February 2017.

Terms and Definitions

Attendance is experiencing the arts as an audience member.

Artforms included within attendance are: plays, musicals, opera, classical music concerts, other live music, dance performances, art or craft galleries or exhibitions, readings, storytellings or other literature events and carnival & street arts.

Participation is active involvement in the arts, such as attending workshops, classes or rehearsals.

Artforms included under participation are: musical activities, drama or theatrical activity, dance, film and video making or photography, visual arts and crafts, digital arts and creative writing.

Children and young people are those aged 7-18 years of age.

Further Information

If you have any comments or queries on this data release, or if you would like to be added to our regular users list, please contact our research team: Research@arts.wales

Website: www.arts.wales

Contact

Chris Batsford
Research Officer
Arts Council of Wales
Bute Place
Cardiff
CF10 5AL
Tel: 029 2044 1373
chris.batsford@arts.wales

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