



Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## Children's Omnibus Survey 2017: 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.

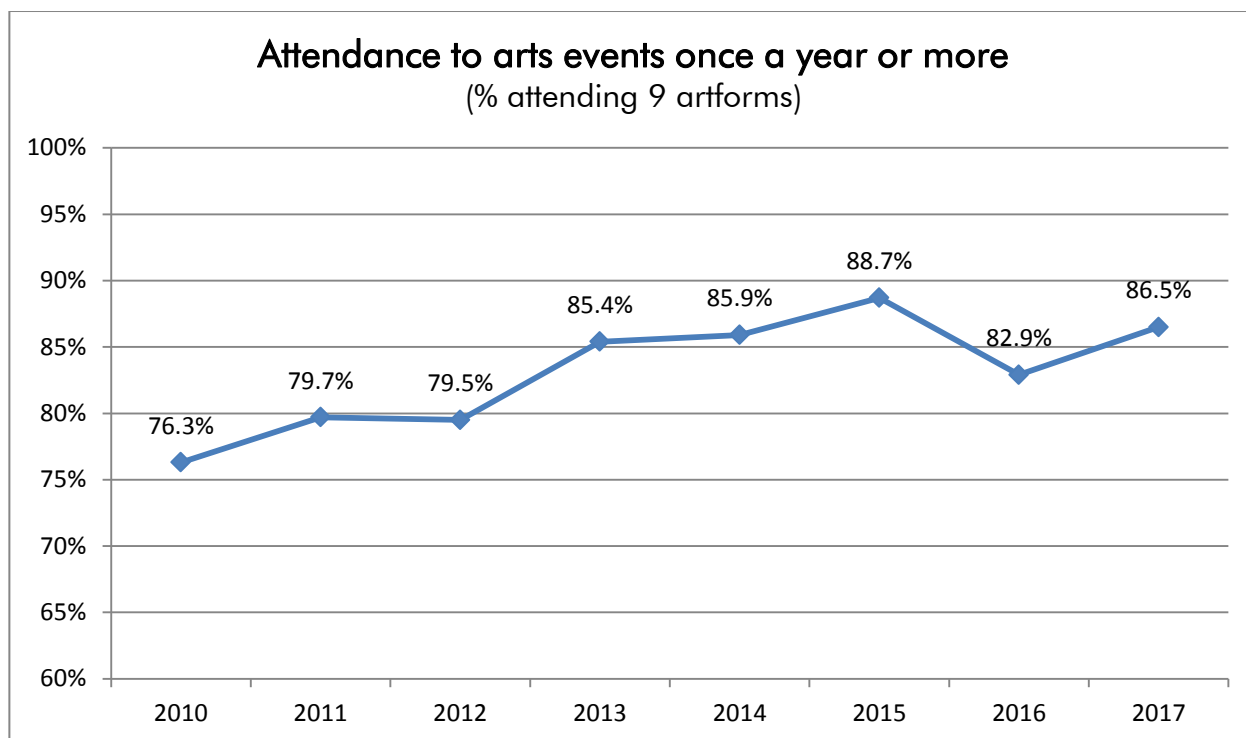
This report summarises the key results for the amalgamated data set for 2017. A detailed report will be published on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

The results are based on 1,032 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 2017.

## Key Results

### Attendance

- During 2017, 86.5% of children and young people in Wales attended an arts event once a year or more. This represents a 3.6 percentage point increase in attendance levels from the previous year.



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

Attendance<sup>1</sup> levels during 2017 demonstrate:

- More girls (89.7%) than boys (83.4%) continue to attend arts events once a year or more, following the trend of the previous two years. The gap between the two genders has increased to 6.3 percentage points, compared to 5.5% in 2016.
- There continues to be a bias in attendance levels by socio economic grade. Those children and young people in the higher grades (ABC1s<sup>2</sup>) are more likely to attend the arts than those in the C2DE group (89.5% compared to 84.3% of C2DEs).

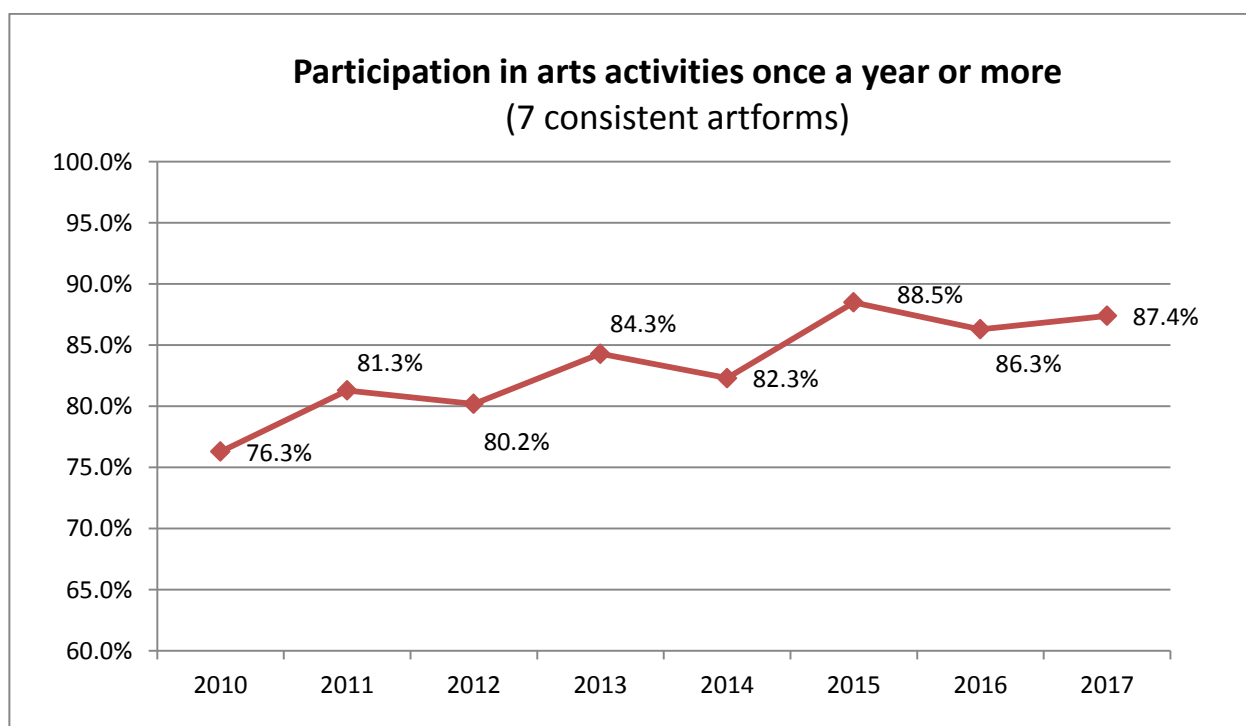
<sup>1</sup> The graph shows data for attendance at 9 artforms which have been included in the survey since 2010. The following artforms are included: plays, musicals, opera, classical music concerts, other live music, dance performances, art or craft galleries or exhibitions, readings, storytellings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

<sup>2</sup> 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 2015 & 2016, carnivals & street arts and plays were the two artforms which had the highest levels of attendances during 2017; 50.9% and 48.5%, respectively. Opera continues to be the artform with the lowest level of attendances. In 2017, 28 respondents (2.7%) said they had attended opera. Attendances to carnival & street arts events have experienced the highest increase of all artforms, up by 6.3 percentage points from the previous year.

## Participation

- In 2017, 87.4% of children and young people took part in arts activities once a year or more; an increase of 1.1 percentage points since 2016.



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; 89.2% compared to 85.6%. The gap between the two genders has decreased from the previous year from 8.1 percentage points in 2016 to 3.6 percentage points in 2017.
- In 2017, ABC1s had slightly higher levels of participation in the arts, at 88.5%, compared to 86.5% of C2DEs. The ABC1 social group has experienced decreases in participation from 2016 (down -2.3 percentage points) while the C2DE group experienced an increase of 4.2 percentage points over the same period.
- Participation in visual arts and crafts (66.2%) is the most popular activity, followed by creative writing (62.2%) and musical activities (50.9%). Visual arts and crafts was the artform that had the biggest increase in participation from the previous year, up by 4.4 percentage points. Dance is the artform with the lowest levels of participation (22.0%); a decrease of 1.0 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 April 2018.

## 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](mailto:Research@arts.wales)

Website: [www.arts.wales](http://www.arts.wales)

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## Next Update

February 2019.